THE HINDOO PATRIOT

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TOWN.....11-8.
MOFUSSIL.....13-4.

THE WEEK.

MONDAY, 11TH FEBRUARY.

THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA, in reviewing the last sanitary report of Bengal, says, "the fever which in previous years occasioned such great mortality in several districts of Bengal appears to have generally subsided; but in many localities the malarial fever of the autumn months still exhibits a tendency to assume a low and fatal form—a fact apparently due to the want of proper conservancy arrangements and to foul water." The Government has again blundered. The fever has not subsided as we shewed two weeks ago. And the cause of the fever is defective drainage and not want of proper conservancy arrangements or good water. It is remarkable how the Government forgets its own conclusions recorded more than once.

THE COLONIAL INTELLIGENCER, which is the organ of the Aborigines' Protection Society, makes the following remarks upon the ravages of the Caffrarian war:

We deeply regret that in this war there has been a large, and, it appears to us, wholly uncalled for, destruction of property. Although the Galekas were driven by the colonial forces like chaff before the wind, their villages have been ruthlessly committed to the flames. The *Fort Beaufort Advocate* remarks that the "burning down of 'Kreli's Great Place,' ditto of Siegaus' kraal, and the huts of some other of Kreli's people, may have a very imposing effect in a telegram, but in a military and even moral point of view we are blind to the advantages which are to result, unless it is intended that the Galekas are to be removed elsewhere—and then the question arises, if so, where?" Our contemporary also contrasts this state of things with the fact that Kreli spared the houses both of the magistrate and of the missionary residing with his tribe. We regret to learn from the *Cape Times* of October 29th, that the burning and looting of kraals had not terminated at that date, but that the work of destruction was proceeding on an extensive scale.

THE ABORIGINES PROTECTION SOCIETY have addressed the Colonial Secretary on the above subject. We make the following extract from the Society's letter:

In the first place, the Committee beg to remind your Lordship that the Fingoes were largely responsible for the quarrel which formed the proximate cause of the outbreak; and secondly, that the Galekas, when they turned upon the Fingoes had no intention or idea of fighting with the colonists or the British troops. Their quarrel was solely with the Fingoes, and they were foolish enough to believe that the colonial authorities would not interfere with them so long as they did not meddle with the colony. Believing, as the committee do, that Great Britain is directly responsible for the peace of South Africa, it is of course impossible for them to attempt the error into which the Galekas were betrayed; but they would remind your lordship that the natives were anxious not to endanger British life or property; that the magistrate's and missionaries' houses were untouched; and that at the outset of the disturbances several Englishmen were conducted by Kreli's sons to a place of safety. At the same time, it must be admitted that some amount of discontent had long existed among the Galekas, arising, as the Committee are informed from their being greatly cramped for room in the limited area to which they were confined by Sir Philip Wodehouse. Although there is reason to believe that they regarded this as a grievance, and more than once complained of it, yet, nevertheless, the fact remains that when hostilities began they made no raid upon the colony, notwithstanding that the northern parts of the divisions of East London and King William's Town lay open to an invader. Moreover, the absence of any long premeditated design to take up arms is shown by Colonel Eustace's Report, dated January 27th last, in which he mentions as a proof of Kreli's desire to deserve the good opinion of the Government, that he had seized two pieces of cannon offered him for sale by a trader, and sent them to the Residency.

As these are facts which may reasonably be urged on behalf of the tribe in mitigation of their offences, the Committee earnestly hope that your lordship will not sanction the proposed confiscation of their lands. They have read with deep concern of the large amount of property which has been destroyed by the colonial troops. It can hardly be said that the Galekas have offered any real resistance to the forces in the field; but, nevertheless, numerous villages and large quantities of provisions have been burned under circumstances which in ordinary warfare would justly be regarded not only as barbarous, but as being certain to provoke savage reprisals. The Committee know that in making this protest against the wholesale burning and looting of the native Kraals, they are expressing the feeling of a large number of her Majesty's European subjects in the Cape Colony.

The Colonial Secretary promises enquiry and says "that he wishes to guard himself against being understood to accept the terms in which the action taken, or contemplated, by the Colonial Government and its forces in a time of serious danger are referred to in your letter, and which, though perhaps not intentionally, seem to impute blame to those who had to act under circumstances of great difficulty."

MR. POPE HENNESSY, with characteristic courage, has set his face against that wholesale infliction of corporal punishment, which has long made the prison at Hong-Kong notorious. He was instructed by Lord Carnarvon to inquire into this matter, and the result is shown in a table which establishes the fact that out of a population of only 140,000, there had been no fewer than 1149 floggings in the year ending July, 1876—that is to say, a number which, as the *Spectator* points out, was forty times as great as in Great Britain during the same period. Moreover, Mr. Hennessy has given great offence by superseding some of the European turnkeys and filling their places with Chinese. But he is firm.

MR. GILES in a letter to the *Banner of Light* asks for light from Babu Peary Chand Mitter on spiritual matters:

Now cannot you invite Mr. Mittra to give to the *Banner* readers some spiritual light from the Orient? He is learned in Ancient Spiritualism, and has written upon the Modern, and I think that there are many Spiritualistic matters upon which he could give valuable hints and suggestions. An illustration of it now occurs to me. You know how the Hindoo doctrine of *Nirvana* has puzzled our Occidental theologians and scholars, and that they have written numerous treatises, more or less satisfactory, upon this mystic theme. The orthodox minister in the village where I live, in an attempted reply of his about a year ago to a lecture by Wong Chin Foo, a Chinese scholar, said that at the present time there is no agreement as to precisely what *Nirvana* means; but Mr. Mittra shed much light upon it to my perception, in the few words in which he touched upon the subject in a letter to a friend of his wherein he wrote that *Nirvana* literally means extinguishment, or the extinction of the animal and emotional elements in man, and that it clearly means what Andrew Jackson Davis denominates the *Superior Condition*. Mr. Mittra is about sixty-three years of age and now, in the evening of his life, I hope you can induce him to give some fruits of his observations and learning to your columns.

Amen!

THE GHOST OF MAHOMED. The *Daily Telegraph* had the following telegraphic announcement: "Great excitement prevails at Constantinople, which has been increased by a rumour that the Prophet has appeared to the Sultan, commanding him to conclude peace." The London *Spiritualists* says: "It would be interesting to know under what circumstances it is alleged this appearance took place."

TUESDAY, 12TH FEBRUARY.

WE ARE GLAD to observe that Col. Keatinge, Chief Commissioner of Assam, recognizes the necessity of teaching Bengali to the Garos. In a Resolution on the report of Mr. Damant, Deputy Commissioner, Garo Hills, he says:

Dr. Martin says that the Officiating Deputy Commissioner of the Garo Hills is of opinion that the Schools in that District are ill-adapted to the wants of the people, and that it would be preferable to expend the greater part of the Government grant in establishing a School at Tura which should be both an artizan and training school. Mr. Damant further advocates the discontinuance of the teaching of Bengali and the substitution of English in its stead, and the teaching of Garo in English instead of in Bengali characters. The Chief Commissioner does not consider that the Schools in the Garo Hills are ill-adapted to the wants of the people. The measure of success attained by them may not be large, but it is a great thing to get the Garos to attend school at all. In any case, considering that an artizan school has already been started at Goalpara for the instruction of the Garos, bearing in mind the signal want of success that has generally attended such institutions, he does not consider the establishment of another artizan School at Tura to be at all necessary. In regard to the adoption of the English alphabet in teaching Garo, Colonel Keatinge has elsewhere recorded the opinion that *he is inclined to the belief that the adoption of Bengali character will as instruction extends, be found to have been the wiser course of the two.* It will probably lead to the eventual extinction of the Garo language in favor of Bengali, a course that will greatly benefit the people of the hills, and will enable them to share the educational progress of the surrounding districts."

So the prospects of the Bengali language in Assam are looking up.

MR. KARNEGY, Deputy Commissioner, Naga Hills, is dead. There is consequently a vacancy in the Assam Commission. We hope the claims of Mr. A. C. Campbell, officiating Deputy Commissioner, will not be overlooked. He is an able, energetic and conscientious officer. He is very kind to the people, who are fond of him.

THE SECRETARY OF STATE has sent out the following despatch to the Government of India dated the 20th December 1877:

"Referring to former correspondence, ending with your Railway letter, No. 44, of the 2nd March, 1876, relative to the employment of officers of the Indian P. W. Department in this (England) country on the inspection of iron work and other stores for India, I have to state that the proposals by your Government have again been under my consideration.

2. The plan hitherto adopted of selecting for this duty from officers on furlough, who might apply for such employment on the terms laid down in my despatch, No. 53, of the 27th May, 1875, has not resulted so favourably as was expected. Certain modifications, therefore, have been made, and it has been now arranged that officers recommended by your Government may be employed on inspection duty in this country for a period not exceeding two years on salaries from £200 to £250 a year in addition to their furlough pay, also being reimbursed all travelling expenses, and receiving an allowance at a fixed rate for hotel charges when engaged on duty at a distance from their usual place of residence, in accordance with the established practice of the Store Department in similar cases. Employment of this kind will be allowed to reckon as service for pension.

3. The number of officers to be selected must depend in some measure on the quantity of work to be done, and the continuance of the system will, of course depend on the degree in which it may be found to answer its purpose. For the present it is considered that two officers may be usefully employed in this manner, and I have selected Colonel Paile to fill one of the posts. In future, I would suggest that in commending to me officers for this duty, those in receipt of high salaries may, as a rule, be avoided, in order that the charge be kept within an amount not incommensurate with the value of the services to be performed."

4. It will, no doubt, be found possible in all cases that the officers chosen shall be taken from among those on leave in England.

We hope this Despatch will not be converted into an opportunity to serve *bhye-bunds*.

AN ASSAM CORRESPONDENT writes as follows:

"The annual fair of Dhubri commenced on the 10th and continued till the 21st January, 1878. The fair is a grant-in-aid business, Government contributing only Rs. 400, and nearly Rs. 1,500, raised by the well-to-do people of the neighbourhood. I should think two birds are being killed by the same stone in this fair business. The local trade receives a good incentive and the political object of drawing the surrounding hill tribes as well served, for I have noticed a considerable number of Bhutias coming down this year to sell about 50 ponies and other hill produce; unfortunately they had miscalculated the time of continuance of the Mela and come too late to sell much here. They were seen to proceed towards Gowhati and crossed the Brahmaputra on the 3rd February, 1878. The chief amusement of the Mela consisted in display of fireworks, pony and other races and theatrical performances in Bengali. You have no idea regarding the wretched place we live in but people have sold and purchased in this Mela goods of considerable value.

A good thatched Hall has been erected here by public subscriptions entirely through the exertions of a Native Police Inspector who begged Mr. Deputy Commissioner Campbell to name it after him."

A CIVIL SERVICE MEETING was held at Dhubri with great success. Babu Protap Chunder Burroa Rai Bahadur, the enlightened and liberal Zemindar of Gowalpara, who presided, has subscribed Rs. 500 in aid of the funds for the defrayal of the expenses of the deputation to England on the subject.

NATIVE OPINION reproduce the following remarks of Mr. David Syme from his work entitled Outlines of an Industrial Science:

It is to Mr. James Wilson, the great anti-corn-law writer, that India is indebted for this duty, who, curiously enough, after doing his best to induce England to abandon customs duties at home, was the first to recommend their adoption abroad. And the tariff which he introduced worked exceedingly well. The duty on manufactured cottons, in particular, answered every requirement of a tax. It was universal and equitable in its incidence, as all classes, rich and poor alike, used the commodity taxed; and as it was an *ad valorem* duty it fell on each, person according to his wealth. As a tax it was inappreciable it was not obnoxious in its mode of collection, and, above all, it brought in a large revenue. But in the course of time, when the natives had become dissatisfied with the quality of the calicoes which Lancashire supplied them, this duty, which was imposed for revenue purposes only, acted incidentally as a prevention to the local mills which have recently been established there and whose products now come into competition with the British exports. Not a word was uttered against this duty so long as Lancashire continued to enjoy a monopoly of the Indian Market; but no sooner was this threatened than Lancashire all at once became concerned about the poor ryot. He was paying too much for his calico, forsooth. If that 5 percent import duty were taken off, the Lancashire mill-owners solemnly assured the Secretary for India that the poor ryot should get the full benefit of it. This iniquitous impost was crushing the very life out of him. One deputation expressed themselves as greatly concerned about the land revenue of India, lest it should be diminished in consequence of so many of the natives devoting themselves to agriculture. There was nothing for it Lancashire said, but the abandonment of the cotton duty. And the Secretary for India quite acquiesced. It was a most impolitic duty, he said, and he promised that it should be taken off as soon as possible but unfortunately it was not possible to do so just at present, as it brought in something like a million sterling a year to the treasury. Anything, however, that the Government could do short of this, should be done to encourage England's most important industry.

It is gratifying to find that there are Englishmen, who are above Manchester selfishness.

WEDNESDAY, 13TH FEBRUARY.

WE ARE GLAD to make room for the following letter:

"As a corrolery to your article on "Insurance against Fever" in the *Hindoo Patriot* of the 4th instant, I would beg to point out that the Physical laws which bring about famine in one tract of country are not the same which produces a similar calamity in another. In the South Behar District for instance the high lands require copious rain for raising crops, but the populations in these tracts require no system of drainage for preservation of their health for which both the water and air are extremely suitable. The dryness of the subsoil is also well known and prevents rapid growth of *miasma and*

vegetable life. In such tracts therefore the supply of water in a year of drought is the only mode of insurance required. In the North Behar Districts except along the Nepal Frontiers and in Bengal Districts generally it is not the want of rain but the excess of it that is the general complaint. In a year of excessive rain all crops dependent on water supply become as it were sick. The floods coming down the Ganges and Brahmapootra with their Tributaries aggravate the soil. The soil in these deltaic tracts is extremely porous and there is little or no fall in many parts more especially in parts removed from the great rivers. The natural consequence is stagnation of the periodical fall of rain and floods which is aggravated by obstructions to the drainage in the shape of bunds, roads &c. In towns and large cities in Bengal there are of course more roads and consequently there is a great obstruction to the drainage and where there is no fall in the land as in Rungpore there is a permatnent saturation of the subsoil, of course in each of the above 2 classes of lands viz high and low lands there are intermediate conditions, for instance parts of Dinagepur Rajshaye and Bograh are high enough, but still fever rages there for excesive vegetation and for want of water free from organic matter, The Behar people emigrate to the fever districts during the cold weather and return home as soon as rain falls so they practically follow a rule by which fever is to be avoided.

By the above remarks it may be perceived that taking high and low lands to be half and half, the irrigation (whether by tanks, wells, canals, or catch water bunds) is required for half the country and drainage by drains, deep tanks and navigable canals for the other half. Roads are less expensive in high lands as canals in the low lands. In the high lands a road is not only easily made but the excavations formed by the sides of the roadcesses and irrigation by storage of water. Some times a road can be made to form catchwater bunds. The bridges on the Minor Nullahs in the high lands if provided with sluice gates can raise the water level for irrigation. These with the assistance of wells and tanks would provide ample means of irrigation. The high floods it is well known are not required for irrigation as they can not easily be brought back to the fields after they had once run to the rivers. So ordinarily the easier means of irrigation consist in the prevention of water receiving into the rivers and in distributing the low flood water with all of which road projects can be combined. In the low lands road projects can be combined with drainage, but in addition to this it is highly necessary to introduce a system of navigable canals in lieu of roads with which all drainage projects should have been constructed, so as to enable the superfluous water being finally and quickly drained into the rivers.

Such canals afford means of obtaining pure water for drinking which is a great want in low land districts. In slighly raised places such as Dinagepore, part of Rajshye, Bograh and along the Nepal Frontiers tanks and other local irrigation works which used to serve the double purpose of streaming water for floods and for supplying good water for drink, have all been neglected and neither the road cess rules nor the rules enforced during the late Behar Famine allowed any scope for action towards improving these works. Except in exceptional cases all the money of the Durbhanga Raj has been spent in roads while very little has been done to excavate tanks for the benefit of the ryots.

In a book published by Mr. Stoney formerly an Executive Engineer on the Soane Canal works and now a a contractor for the same works the Soane Canal project is shown to embrace Districts of Shahabad, Gya, Patna, and Monghyr. The Canal is made to run across many minor streams whose sources are indepedent of the Soane. Now the Soane whatever its flood discharge may be has very little low water to irrigate so many districts. This single observation should go to show how much it is necessary to localize irrigation which means the utilization of all local sources of water.

With the localization of irrigation the localisation of irrigation funds would be first necessary and as local projects are infinitely cheaper than such projects as the Soane and Orissa canal, the funds raised in each district or each class of districts would be ample for all irrigation purposes. In each district or each class of districts where irrigation canals or irrigation works generally are not wanted the funds raised for insurance against famine should be devoted to projects for drainage and water supply as well as clearance of jungle. With all these projects the operations of the Road Cess Department can be combined as has already been observed, but if it be considered difficult to combine these different objects, separate local action is at all events perfectly feasible."

WE HAVE RECEIVED the following letter on the subject of the grievances of the Subordinate Executive Service:

The *Calcutta Gazette* of this week announces a few more promotions in the subordinate executive service. The number of persons benefited by these promotions are not many, but the important principles recognized in granting them cannot fail to give great encouragement and hope to all the members of that service.

The greatest cause of discontent among the officers of the uncovenanted branch of the executive service was that while temporary promotions were granted in all the other departments they were the only officers who were excluded from this advantage. The removal of this, the greatest cause of discontent will no doubt produce the desired effect. There are still about fifteen vacancies permanent and temporary in the various grades of the executive service and it is believed that they will be filled up as soon as His Honour comes to hear of them.

Formerly although a deputy magistrate entered the service on Rs 200 a month he did not continue long on this pay. As soon as he passed the departmental examinations he was promoted to the next higher grade, So that it was believed that the lowest salary of a Deputy Magistrate was rupees 300. The rule at present is quite different. A Deputy Magistrate has to remain in the officiating grade for more than the time for which his brethern of former times remained in the lowest grade and after he has been confirmed he has to serve at least three years before he can expect to get promotion. In these days of high prices for all the necessaries of life the salary given to the lowest grade of Deputy Mag's rates barely enables them to keep their position which is necessary to command respect and influence in society. Then again the work of a Deputy Magistrate is now much harder than what it was in former times. There is thus no wonder that the service has become unpopular and discontent pervades throughout the ranks of the service. If the system of granting temporary promotion which is all that His Honour can do in these days of rules be strictly carried out the service may regain popularity and be rendered attractive to the most intelligent class of our educated native youths.

The most pleasing feature connected with the late promotions is that the order of seniority of service has been strictly observed especially in regard to the junior officers, and many a good and deserving officer who would otherwise have to pine in the shade for want of patrons to advance their claims have been highly encouraged by seeing justice done them. The other system namely selection according to merit is open to much abuse. Under the latter system an officer considers himself quite safe if he can secure the good graces of his local superior, and honest and conscientious men have either to sacrifice their honesty and conscience to flatter the whims and caprices of their local lords or to pine in the cold shade of negligence, and men of worth have no real cause of discontent for they have only to wait until their turn for promotion comes. Moreover all the officers do not serve under the same superiors and these latter have different standards to judge the merits of their subordinates, unless therefore an officer is reported against his promotion should not be stopped if he is not highly recommended by his superior—for very often he may be a good officer, who would have been highly eulogised if he had had the good fortune to be placed under another superior. It has been often remarked that promotion according to the seniority of service creates a spirit of laziness among the officers, but at the present time a deputy magistrate has so many things to do that unless he works hard and with energy he can never hope to continue in the service. The district officer under whom he may be placed is sure to report his irregularities or incompetency to the commissioner if he does not get sufficient work from him.

One important ruling appears to have been overlooked in connection with the promotions which forms the subject of this letter. It was ruled by His Honor the late Lieutenant Governor of Bengal that although officers will be confirmed in their appointments according to the order in what they pass the departmental examination in the compulsory subjects they will not be eligible to promotion until they will have passed in all the subjects, His Honour being of opinion that an officer who took some trouble in passing in the optional subject ought to be promoted in preference to one who has not taken that trouble. But we see that out of the eight persons lately promoted from the 7th to the 6th grade as many as four are men who did not pass in Hindustani.

FOR LIGHT READING MAY FAIR recommends the "Transactions of the Chemical Society." The writer says:

"The volume for November informs us that Mr. W. H Perkin read a paper on the homologues of cennamic acid, and of anethol; and conducted experiments in illustration of the paper. The following acids were prepared and examined:—Hydrobromocinnenylrorylic, hydrobromocinnenylorotonic, hydrobromocinnenylangelic. The following hydrocarbons were obtained:-Isopropylvinylbenzene, isopropylallylbenzne, isopropylbutenylbenzene, allylbenzene and butenylbenzene. The dibromides of these bodies were also prepared and examined. By heating methylparoxyphenylacrylic acid, vinlic anethol. obtained, similarly allylic or ordinary anethol and butenylic anethol were prepared. These results seem to have fired the emulation of Mr. T. Cornelly, who states that, by the oxidation of solid ditolyl he obtained diparatolylphenycarbonic acid and diparadiphenyldicarbonic acid. Moreover liquid ditolyl yielded orthoparatolylphenylcarbonic acid orthoparadiphenylcarbonic acid, and finally terephthallic acid.

Bap re bap!

THE ABOVE JOURNAL thus notices the marriage of the Maharaja of Darbhanga with two wives:

A new charge has been brought against the civilised Government of India—that of promoting bigamy. The Government has a large number of wards of great wealth and much land, whom, when minors, it educates, while a civil servant administers their estates. The leading and most enlightened Hindoo paper of Calcutta now finds a grievance in the fact that the officials have permitted the richest of these wards, the Maharaja of Durbungah, to marry two wives, while his younger brother is forced to be content with one. This is the extreme opposite of a vain attempt of the Calcutta Legislature to put down Hindoo polygamy by statute.

AN INFLUENTIALLY signed letter was sent to the Bombay Council for the postponement of the License Bill, pending a public meeting on the subject, but the Government refused and passed the Bill in hot haste. Why this unseemly haste? The financial year will not commence until April next.

THURSDAY, 14TH FEBRUARY.

A MEETING of the Hindu Marriage Reform Committee was held at Durbangha on the 20th January last, which was attended by most of the influential native gentlemen of the station. Moonshee Pearylal was voted to the chair and some papers were laid on the table. One was a copy of the Istahar promulgated by Mr. A. P. MacDonnell, Magistrate, and President of the Durbangha Anjuman, the next paper was a copy of opinion recorded by the Maharaja of Durbangha on the subject of polygamy among the Tirhootia Brahmins, the third paper contained returns received from the several village Anjumans. The village Anjuman papers showed that owing to the exertions of the Maharaja of Durbangha and the Maharaj Kumars, no less than 2211 marriages were performed in strict conformity with the rules of the Anjuman, during the years 1876 and 1877; and that 87 persons were found guilty of partial infringement of rules, of whom 49 paid Rs. 244-3-0 in the shape of fines, and the other cases are under enquiry. The amount of subscriptions realized during the period abovementioned was Rs- 1537-5-4. It further appeared from the papers presented that in consequence of a difference of opinion between the Maharaja and the Anjuman in respect to certain rules Tirhoot Brahmin Marriage contracts were not well regulated in the Souruth Brahmin-Marriage Sabha of July and August last. The Hony. Joint-Secretary, Baboo Gouri Sunkur, read the Commissioner's Circular No. 15 of the 18th December last to the address of the District Magistrates and the Roobkari issued by the Magistrate of Shahabad and expressed a hope that a similar Roobkari may be issued by the Magistrate of Durbangha.

A CORRESPONDENT brings to our notice the contributions of Baboo Mohima Runjon Roy Chowdhry, Zemindar of Kakina in the Rungpore district, to charitable works and educational institutions. The Kakina Kailas Runjun dispensary is a first class establishment, and it is maintained at the sole expense of the Zemindar without any contribution from Government. There is a Vernacular first class school at Kakina called the "Rungpore Kailas Runjun Bungo Bidyaloy," which is also maintained wholly by the Zemindar. Again, there is a public Library at Kakina containing valuable English, Sanskrit and Vernacular books, which owes its existence and continuance to the Zemindar's liberal allowance. Besides these there are three other schools at Kakina which depend upon the support of the local Zemindar, one is a middle class English school, another a night school, and the third a girl's school.

MR. HUBEL, the mining Engineer employed by the Persian Government, has made an important discovery of silver near Zingan.

THE SECRETARY OF STATE has lately, on behalf of the Board of Trade, expressed a desire that, in all cases of wrecks, endeavour should be made to secure the early transmission of official logs to the proper authorities in England.

IN CONSEQUENCE of recent shipping disasters near Cape Gardafui, measures are under consideration for providing a lighthouse, or other warning to shipping in that vicinity. The "Settlement of the Eastern Question" has also something to do with the matter, as in view of the present embarassments the Egyptian Government hesitate to undertake expensive works. Temporary measures are therefore under consideration till permanent ones can be initiated.

WE UNDERSTAND that the Maharaja of Kuch Behar had a private audience of the Vice-oy yesterday.

WE HEAR that the Secretary of State has officially approved of the insertion in the book of Common Prayer in India of the title "Empress of this land" in places where the name of Her Majesty the Queen occurs, the suggestion was originally made by the Bishop of Madras, and recommended by the Metropolitan of India.

FRIDAY, 15TH FEBRUARY.

A FAMINE REPORT from Madras dated January 12th states that the numbers on works had been stationary during the past week, but decreased on gratuitous relief 11,000 net, now remaining about 305,000. Price of rice generally steady, dry grains slightly rising. Madras imports increasing.

THE LATEST accounts of prospects in Rohilkhand and Oudh show that though scarcity will doubtless be felt severely until the spring crops come into market, a month hence, yet distress is well in hand. In September Colonel Fraser was deputed to visit the head quarters of every division to make necessary arrangements for the distress which was imminent in the event of failure in the rabi sowing. Timely rain averted this, but it was known that almost total failure of the autumn crops would cause severe distress just before the spring crops coming to market. So Colonel Fraser in November last again went round the Division to prepare accordingly. A sufficient staff of Engineers has been sent into Raibareli division. The North-West Government have proposed certain relief works at Farakhabad and Lucknow, and are in readiness to start relief works wherever need for them may arise.

WITH REGARD to the threatened block in the grain traffic at Ludhiana and other Stations, latest reports show that the total accumulation on the whole line on the 10th amounted to six lakhs maunds, one hundred seventy two waggons have been borrowed from the other lines and all spare stock is being utilised. Most of the down grain traffic is going to the Stations between Saharunpore and Delhi, on an average 320 grain waggons go down daily from Lahore and other lines have been urged to lend the Delhi Railway as many waggons as can be spared.

THE ACCOUNTS from Kashmir regarding the impending scarcity are more hopeful in character. There will be more or less scarcity in Kashmir until perhaps the next Kharif, but no reason to fear actual famine. Accounts from Ganjam dated the ninth instant report good rain there valuable for standing crop.

WE HEAR that Major E. R. C. Bradford C. S. I. is likely to succeed Mr. Lyall in Rajpootana.

BOTH IN connection with the dismissal of Mr. Oliphant, and on other occasions, it has been stated that the action of Sir Salar Jung has been largely due to the support he has received from H. R. H. the Prince of Wales, who, it is alleged, has used his personal influence in his behalf, and has also received valuable presents from Sir Salar, and acknowledged them by a cordial telegram, the attention of the Prince of Wales has been attracted to these statements, and he has desired that they may be authoritatively contradicted. In view of the great care which H. R. H.

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has always taken to avoid all interference with political complications, the supposition that he would for a moment lend his personal influence to aid any attempt to embarrass H. M.'s Government is one that H. R. H. would naturally be most anxious to disavow; and as it is not usual for members of the Royal Family to accept presents from Native dignitaries save through the regular channels of the Government of India; H R. H.'s wish to contradict this portion of the canard will be readily understood. In the peculiar circumstances of this country, where such false statements might be used by designing persons to mislead loyal Native chiefs, this authoritative contradiction may seem to be not without its value.

SATURDAY, 16TH FEBRUARY.

IT IS reported from the Frontier that Mian Gul the present ruler of Swat and son of the late Akhoond, finding himself too weak to fight against the Khan of Dir, who does not entertain very friendly feelings towards him, is inclined towards the British Government. This has excited rebellious feelings in the minds of the Swat people; and, in the meanwhile, the Khans of Dir and Bajour have petitioned the Amir for permission to occupy Swat territory.

WE UNDERSTAND that after much negotiation, a compact has lately been concluded between the Persian Government and the Tekke Turkomans of Merve, whereby the latter declare, *inter alia*, their allegiance to that Government and declare that raids by them on Persian territory shall now altogether cease. It is also arranged that an Agent of the Shah shall reside at Merve, and that 100 hostages from the four divisions of the tribe shall reside at Meshed.

GENERAL KEDAR NAR SING Bahadur, of Nepaul, had the honor of a private interview with His Excellency the Viceroy yesterday.

A POINT of some nicety, it is said, has just been decided by the Appellate Court, consisting of the Hon'ble the Chief Justice and Mr. Justice Markby, namely, that the adoption by a Hindu of an *only* son is not legal in Bengal. In so deciding the Appellate Court confirmed a decision of Mr. Justice Kennedy.

MR. AITCHISON relieves Mr. Saunders at Mysore on March 31st. After Mr. Aitchison's departure, it is understood that Mr. Plowden will conduct the current duties of the Foreign Secretariat until Mr. Lyall takes up the appointment at the end of March.

THE *Indian Daily News* has recieved the following telegram from Madras:

Madras, 13th February 194.—An extraordinary *fracas* has occurred here. Mr. Digby, the Editor of the *Times*, was savagely assaulted, whilst at his editorial duties, by Mr. Ackrill, late of Bombay, at present the *Athenæum's* reporter here, and a clerk in Messrs. Arbuthnot's office, in consequence of a paragraphic notice that appeared this morning in the *Times* of Ackrill's arrest at the instance of Major Gorham, for swindling at Umballa. Ackrill rushed at Mr. Digby unexpectedly, kicked and belaboured him with a thick cane over the head and face. Digby seized Ackrill's throat and held him down, the printers interposed, and the police were called in. Ackrill has been summarily convicted, and sentenced to one month's imprisonment, without the option of a fine.

Ackrill has been served right.

THIS MORNING'S *Gazette of India* gives the following results in the Examinations for Honors in Arts: HONORS IN ARTS: *English*. 2nd Division, 5, 3rd Division, 2. *Sanscrit*, 2nd Division 1, *History*, 1st Division, 1, *Mathematics*, 2nd Division, 3, 3rd. Division, 1, *Philosophy*, 2nd, Division, 1, *Physical Science*, 1st Division 1, 2nd Division, 4, 3rd Division, 1, M. A. in alphabetical order, 8.

THERE WERE two interesting social gatherings this evening, one at the Boitukhana house of the late Babu Ramapersad Roy for the reception of Sirdar Dayal Sing of the Punjab and the other a *conversazione* at Babu Debendranath Tagore's, to which his son Babu Dijendranath Tagore invited native authors and scholars. Both the reunions went off very well. At the last a little cherub in the person of a granddaughter of Babu Debendranath Tagore, a sweet little girl of about ten or eleven years, discoursed angelic music. The amiable host was very attentive to his guests.

THE LAST number of the *Indian Charivari* makes Col. Colley the subject of the Album portrait. The cartoon and letter-press are good.

HIS EXCELLENCY THE VICEROY left Calcutta for Barrackpore this noon. His Excellency having been somewhat indisposed will probably remain at Barrackpore throughout the coming week.

A TELEGRAM from Peshwar dated the 15th instant reports most satisfactory and successful operations against the enemy at the village of Sapri, one of the ringleaders being slain. The force consisted of 250 Guide cavalry under Captain Wigram Battye, of whom 50 were left near Abazai to take charge of horses and take them to the Fort. 200 went on and reached Sapri after about eight miles exceedingly bad and the last mile very steep country early in the morning. Mian Rukan the ringleader sought for resisted capture but was shot down and killed after stabbing the Tahsildar, who was saved by a note-book in his breast pocket. Six of the enemy were killed, and six prisoners taken of whom three are men of note. Number wounded unknown. On our side six were wounded, one dangerously. The force remained several hours in the village, attacked and dispersed the detachments, which had come up from other villages to support Sapri and returned without molestation with prisoners and wounded. The Lieutenant-Governor of the Punjab considers that the Guides behaved splendidly and that the utmost credit for this dashing exploit is due to Captain Cavagnari, Deputy Commissioner with the Force, and to the officers and men of the Guides.

WE HAVE received from Babu Benodlal Sen Gupta a copy of the prospectus of his projected Hindu School of Medicine, where instruction will be given in the Ayoorbeda system of Medicine. This is an important move and we wish it every success.

WE HAVE to acknowledge with thanks the receipt of the under-mentioned publications and periodicals:—1. The Hindoo Pilgrims—a Poem, by M. A. Sherring M.A. L.L B (London.) 2 Early Records of British India, by J. Talboys Wheeler, London. 3. Irrigation, Famine, and the Land-Tax of India, by J. Dacosta, London. 4. Ancient India as described by Magasthenes and Arriam, by J. M. McCrindle M. A. Principal of the Patna College. 5 Trade and Navigation Returns of British India for December, 1877, with a comparative statement for nine months of 1875-76 and 1876-77. 6. The Rent Question in Bengal, by J. N. Bhuttacharja, M.A, B.L. 7. Rapadhara aur Promomohiny Natuk, a drama in Hindi by Lalla Srinibas Das, Delhi. 8. Report of the Madras Famine Committee No. 19. 9 The Madrasa Literary Budget, Vol. III., No. 3, for January 1878. 10. Pasan-Protima, an Historical Romance in Bengali, by Gopal Chunder Mookerjee. 11. Papers relating to the Conservation of Sanskrit MSS. 12. Apurva Milan Natuk or a Strange Union. By Promothonath Bose. 13. Journal of the National Indian Association No. 85.

WE TAKE from the morning papers the following telegrams of the week:

Rome, 10th February.—The Italian Government have pledged security of the conclave. There are rumours of dissension in the College of Cardinals. Garibaldi is very ill.

St. Petersburg, 10th February.—It is semi-officially stated that Russia is prepared to welcome the British ironclad squadron at Constantinople as auxiliaries in maintaining order, and that the Russian attitude depends on the course England may adopt.

London, 11th February.—News has been received from the Cape of a British Victory on the 15th January. The Trans Kei country is now cleared of Kaffirs. No information has yet been received of the arrival of the British fleet in the Dardanelles. When it arrives there, it is expected that the Russians will occupy Constantinople.

12th.—In both Houses of Parliament last night, ministers, in reply to questions, said that a difficulty had arisen regarding the entry of the British fleet into the Dardanelles but that negotiations in the matter were proceeding, which, it was expected, will result in consent being obtained for the entry of our fleet. The intention of the Government, however to send a fleet to Constantinople remains unchanged. Austria, Italy, and France have applied for permission to enter the Dardanelles. Prince Gortschakoff has telegraphed abroad that as the British ironclad squadron goes to Constantinople, we (Russia) send our troops to Constantinople.

12th—Active naval and military preparations are being made in Dockyards and Arsenals in England. Original committee on arrears of Ordnance Majors reassembles 7th March.

12th. (*Midnight*)—Lord Derby this evening, in reply to a question, said he hoped to announce on Thursday that the British iron-clad Squadron was at Constantinople. The despatch of the French and Italian Squadrons had, he said, been suspended. He supposed that permission to enter the Dardanelles had been refused them. Several Austrian iron-clads are starting for the Levant. Seditious manifestations are being made in Syria; many of the notable men at Damascus have been exiled.

13th—The Channel Squadron has been ordered to rendezvous, and call for orders at Gibralter.

14th—An unconfirmed report which is generally current states that the British Fleet entered the Dardanelles yesterday morning. The relations between Russia and Austria are critical. The expediency of an alliance between Austria and England is being much discussed. It is reported at Constantinople that hostilities have been resumed in Thessaly.

14th.—In the Commons this evening, Sir Stafford Northcote, replying to a question, said that the Porte had refused us permission to enter the Dardanelles. Nevertheless the British fleet had been ordered to proceed. The Governor of the Dardanelles had protested, but the passage was unopposed and he (Northcote) believed that the fleet was now at Constantinople. The Russian occupation of Constantinople was, he said, not justified. Lord Derby in the Lords read a despatch from Prince Gortschakoff, stating that the Russian occupation of Constantinople was a pacific measure. The Sultan has dissolved the Turkish Parliament

15th—Lord Derby has replied to Prince Gortschakoff's despatch respecting the occupation of Constantinople by the Russians, and has protested against the Russian occupation of Constantinople, which, he states, is not identical with the presence of a British squadron at Constantinople. The British iron-clad squadron is now in the Sea of Marmora where it has experienced boisterous weather.

15th—Four of the British iron-clads arrived at Prince's Islands this morning. Two other Iron-clads remain at Gallipoli, whilst three remain in Besika Bay.

16th.—A foreign Office despatch, dated the 13th instant, states that in an interview held between Lord Derby and Count Schouvaloff, Lord Derby said he earnestly hoped that Russia was not moving her troops towards Gallipoli, whereby communication with the British Squadron at Constantinople would be threatened. Considering public opinion in England, he (Lord Derby) declined to be responsible for consequences which would be most serious, if Russia contemplated such a step.

Constantinople, 12th February.—In to-day's sitting of the Turkish Chamber of Deputies, the president of the Council said that, if the British fleet entered the Dardanelles, Turkey would protest, and England would be responsible for the consequence.

16th.—The Russians yesterday occupied Samadie redoubt, within the lines of the defences of Constantinople. The British Iron-clad Squadron has withdrawn to Mudania on the Gulf of Gemlik, and about forty miles south of Constantinople.

Vienna, 16th February.—All the European Powers, excluding Russia, have adhered to Austria's proposal for a European Congress to be held at Baden-Baden. Rumours are current here, which state that Austria is about to negotiate a loan, and that she is in concert with England.

Athens 16th February.—The Turkish troops have been defeated by the insurgents in Thessaly. The insurrectionary movement in Crete and Thessaly against Turkish rule is spreading.

INDIAN ASSOCIATION FOR THE CULTIVATION OF SCIENCE.
(210, Bow-Bazar Street.)

LECTURE by Dr. Mahendra Lal Sircar, to-morrow Evening, at 7 P. M.

Subject: Electric Induction and Distribution of Electricity.

LECTURE by the Very Rev. Father Lafont. J. S, on *Thursday* the *21st Inst.* next at 7 P. M.

Subject: Wind Instruments and the peculiarities of their mouth pieces.

Admission Fee for non-subscribers—*Annas* 8 for a single Lecture: Or Rs. 3 in advance for 12 consecutive Lectures.

MAHENDRA LAL SIRCAR, M. D.
Honorary Secretary.

15th February, 1878.

The Hindoo Patriot.

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 18, 1878.

THE TAXATION DEBATE IN THE VICE-REGAL COUNCIL.

THE recent debate on the Taxation Bills in the Vice-Regal Council, such as it was, was wholly one-sided. There was not the slightest symptom of difference of opinion. Speaker after speaker, who were all officials, presented the same unvaried view. Different speakers took up different points, all in support of the new bills. Sir John Strachey took up the question of the necessity of a famine fund, and defended the present form of taxation. Mr. Colvin and Dr. Thornton defended the fresh imposition upon the land in Northern India. The Lieutenant Governor also supported the land-rate. Lord Lytton vindicated the enhancement of the salt duties. We have already touched upon the main position of Sir John Strachey. He has, as we remarked last week, receded from his original position. He would not pay the interest upon the famine loans or extinguish those loans with the new taxes. He would not constitute a separate famine fund. He would spend the money upon public works as heretofore. Now this sort of investment is not new; it has been going on for years past, but has it proved a real insurance against famine? We find that the Government of India has from 1868-69 to 1877-78 spent about 30 crores upon extraordinary public works, and what is the result? The Secretary of State in his Famine Despatch, which we notice elsewhere, says: "In the reports which your Excellency has forwarded to me from time to time, I find much to lead me to believe that the very cause which produced the famine in many cases has made irrigation works wholly or partially ineffective. The same want of rain, which parched the fields, emptied the tanks and lessened the volume of the rivers. The absence of glaciers in the hills of Southern India would naturally render the

irrigation canals far more liable to be affected by want of rain, than similar works in the valleys of the Ganges and the Indus. Sir Richard Temple, in his Minute of the 15th of April, gives a description of the effect of the drought upon these channels even before the south-west monsoon had failed, which seems to indicate that want of water will probably be a fatal obstacle to any large extension of irrigation." Again:

"The drought in Madras," he says, "caused the Kistna and its affluents to roll down in such a diminished volume that the canal from the Tungabhadra near Kurnul, and the great irrigation works of the Masulipatam delta, were stinted in their supply. It made the freshes and floods of the Penair descend in such shrunken portions that the reservoir and channels of Nellore were nearly deprived of water. It stopped the supply of the Cauverypauk Lake near Arcot, and rendered the dam across the Palar inoperative. It reated for some time on the districts of South Arcot, Tanjore and Trichinopoly, and threatened them with evil; they were however, saved. South Arcot mainly by some latter rains, and Tanjore and Trichinopoly partly by the same rains, but chiefly by the canals. Though it failed to dry up the harvest of the rich tracts of Malabar and Travancore, or to prevent the Cauvery from filling the canals of the Tanjore Delta, yet it rendered them powerless to send the succour that might otherwise have been expected.

Of the whole cultivated area in the famine districts, "small part (technically termed 'wet') is watered from artificial tanks, which often arise to the propotions of lakes; the remainder (technically called 'dry') is watered in some parts from wells, but for the most part from rainfall. The proportion of wet lands varies greatly in the several districts, being largest in Chingleput, where it exceeds one-half of the whole cultivation, and smallest in Bellary, where it is only one-twentieth. The failure was worst in the 'wet' lands. The tanks, having their catchment areas in undulating plains or low hills on which but little rain descended, were left almost dry. What are usually splendid sheets of water became scorched dusty plains, appearing as huge black patches, with cracked and fissured soil. The sluices, the distributing channels, and all the apparatus of irrigation lay useless."

Such being the case the irrigation works have not proved the sort of insurance, which they are expected to be. With regard to Railways it cannot be denied that they proved highly beneficial in famine times. But did the State Railways, for we refer to them, prove financially remunerative? We observe in a recent number of the *Gazette of India* that about 15 millions have been spent upon State Railways, and although their development must be a work of time, they now entail loss upon the Government to the tune of about half a million a year. It is certainly desirable to extend the Railways for the development of the resources of the country, but the question is whether the returns will be such as to meet the interest for loans, which may be contracted for future famine? If not, then there must be additional taxation for famine, It then comes to this that while the Government takes new taxes for famine relief, its financial position will practically remain the same. It is this state of uncertainty against which the public protest. We may take a future opportunity to notice the arguments advanced on the subject of the imposition of a land rate in Northern India, but cannot resist the temptation of reproducing the following remarks of the Lieutenant Governor. His Honor said:

"I see that some objections have been raised to the levy of cesses on the landed interests of the N. W. P. on the ground that the cesses now levied do not extend to Bengal. Those who argue in this way seem entirely to forget that Bengal set the example of contributing such a cess to the Imperial Revenues, and last year relieved the Government of India of nearly £300,000 by imposing on the land charges hitherto borne by the Imperial Government. It would have been most unreasonable and unfair that this taxation should have been maintained in Bengal while the landed interests of the rest of India were left free. Last year the only taxation imposed on the N. W. P. was a low license tax. While Bengal raised enough to meet the demands of the Imperial Government by a cess on lands, this year the Government of Northern India have supplemented their trades of license tax by a cess upon land while Bengal has supplemented its cess upon land by a license tax. Out of the money £1,500,000, now required by the Government of India for the construction of works to prevent famine, Bengal will contribute £600,000, or nearly one half; and the outcry that she has been unduly favoured is most unjust and unfounded.

This vindication of Bengal by its responsible Ruler cannot but be gratifying to its people.

Lord Lytton gave a most interesting history of the salt duties, and firmly vindicated the policy of Government in this matter. But we cannot go with His Lordship in the opinion he expressed on the necessity of equalizing the salt tax. The circumstances of the several provinces are so widely different that there cannot be a perfect equality between them. On the other hand the salt tax, as his Lordship has conclusively shewn, does not unduly press upon any class of the community, and the remission of the duty would be an unnecessary sacrifice of revenue.

THE TAXATION DEBATE IN THE BENGAL COUNCIL.

THE License Bill did not pass the Bengal Council without a protest from the non-official native members. The reasons on which this protest was grounded were, 1stly, that the tax would be permanent, whereas there being ample room for economy, it ought to be limited to a short term, say five years, 2ndly, that the money though originally demanded to meet Famine expenditure incurred and to be incurred, would be applied to public works in the same manner as other general revenues, whether such works be or be not an insurance against famine, 3rdly, that the proceeds of the new tax may be applied to the general purposes of the state on necessary occasions, 4thly, that such application of the money would not afford any guarantee against fresh taxation in case of future famine, and 5thly, that as a Public Works Cess had already been imposed upon Bengal, the proposed tax upon it for the same purpose involved double injustice to it. This enunciation of opinion did not pass unchallenged by His Honor the Lieutenant Governor. Before we notice His Honor's remarks we wish to clear up one point. A native member proposed that the proceeds of the tax should be applied to the payment of the interest upon the famine loans and the redemption of the debt. He was asked where was his authority for his proposal, and he replied that the statement of the Finance Minister and the preamble of the Bill were his authority. But the Lieutenant-Governor denied that Sir John Strachey had said any where that he would pay the interest of the famine loans from the proceeds of the new taxes. Unfortunately the native member could not reply as he had been shut up by the ruling of the President, that as the Hon'ble Member proposed to withdraw his amendment, a discussion upon it would be infructuous. In vain did he supplicate—"strike but hear!"—the Council would not grant him a hearing. But what he was not allowed to state in Council we will state briefly in these columns. The same native member, in speaking about the appropriation of the proceeds of the tax on the introduction of the Bill, had said:

It might be said that the famine expenditure of 1877 was fairly chargeable to the whole empire, and that Bengal as a part of the empire ought to bear a portion of that expenditure. He bowed to that opinion. But what was the amount of the famine expenditure? The total expenditure on account of the Bombay and Madras famine came to about 9½ millions sterling, and if that amount were to be raised by means of a loan, the interest charge upon it would not exceed 40 lakhs of rupees; and if Bengal were called upon to bear a fair proportion of this charge, its share would be considerably less than the revenue to be derived under this Bill.

His Honor the Lieutenant Governor had then replied as follows:

Hon'ble members were aware that in such crisis as lately occurred in Madras, any one province was incapable of bearing the whole burden of such a famine from its own resources, and therefore this fund, which would be formed from the contributions from the various provinces, would be held available to meet such famines wherever they occurred. Now that was a principle to which he understood his hon'ble friend had agreed in the early part of his speech, when he said it was right of the Government to lay upon Bengal her share of the cost of the famine, and *His Honor thought it was a principle which no one would dispute.*

In speaking of the actual amount mentioned by Sir John Strachey on account of famine expenditure as 9½ millions, and calculating the interest upon it as 40 lakhs, the hon'ble member said that the share of Bengal would be but a small proportion of that sum. But this hon'ble friend did not go back far enough. What Sir John Strachey said was that although the late famine in Bombay and Madras cost 9½ millions, there would be a further item of 7 millions which had been expended for the relief of the famine in Bengal. Now this should also be taken into account, and as it happened the amount which Bengal was now asked to contribute, and which had been limited to 30 lakhs in the manner which was now proposed, was nearly the interest of the 7 millions which had been expended from the Imperial Revenues upon Bengal alone. Although the amount of 30 lakhs was not mentioned in this Bill, he had received a despatch from the Government of India limiting the payment from Bengal to thirty lakhs for the present at least, leaving the local Government to use for provincial purposes and public improvements in the province under their own supervision, anything in excess of that thirty lakhs which might be raised under this Bill. HIS HONOR thought that that really met very much views of his hon'ble friend in suggesting that the Government demand should be limited, and the balance credited to the Provincial Revenues, and this was not certainly a condition which the Council could with propriety make on the Bill.

But what did His Honor say at the last sitting of the Council? We give the following interpellations from the *Englishman*:

The Honorable Kristodas Pal considered that when the people had been called upon to pay the interest on money to be expended for famine works—

His Honor the President said he was not aware that there was any thing before the Council to show that that was the case. The Government of Bengal had been asked to levy a certain sum of money in accordance with a scheme laid down by the Government of India.

The Honorable Kristodas Pal said that his authority was no less a one than the honorable the Financial Member himself. It was true that there were no papers before this Council on the subject, and as His Honor the President was unwilling that the matter should be discussed, he would not press his remarks.

Now let the reader compare the above with the original remarks of the Lieutenant Governor and say whether His Honor did not himself understand Sir John Strachey to mean that the interest on the famine loans should be paid out of the proceeds of the new taxes. Did he not say at the previous meeting that "it was a principle which no one would dispute," and yet His Honor did "dispute it." when it was put in the shape of an amendment?

To return. The Lieutenant Governor answered the protest at some length. His Honor admitted the necessity of economy. He said:

"There was no doubt that with respect to economy there was a great deal of truth in what his hon'ble friend had stated. But that was not an idea peculiar to himself. It had been continually noticed by His Excellency the Viceroy, by Sir J. Strachey, by himself the Lieutenant-Governor) and others, and it was a matter that was receiving the most earnest attention on all sides. A great part of His Honor's time was now spent in trying how far they could reduce expenditure in the administration. Expenditure in the army and in the Home charges were matters, with which it was not in his power to deal, and he doubted whether it was in the power of the Government of India to deal with it altogether. But he was sure that the subject was receiving the serious attention of the Government of India, and that the Government would do what it could in these directions."

If such was the case, then why impose the new tax as a permanent burden? The mass of the people do not understand the distinction which the Lieutenant-Governor instituted between the responsibilities of the local Government, the Government of India, and the Home Government. To them it is all the same whether it is Mr. Eden, Lord Lytton, or Lord Salisbury, who governs them. They look upon the British Government as an entity, and hold the whole British nation responsible for the administration of the country. They cannot understand the differences of opinion between the Government of India and the Home Government; they judge the Government by its actions as an aggregate body. And they feel that their interests are being sacrificed to the exigencies of the imperial policy of England. The Lieutenant-Governor admits the justness of their complaint and if retrenchments were in contemplation, why should not the tax have been limited to five years? If it would have been necessary at the end of that period to renew the tax, there was nothing to prevent the Government from doing so. Then the Lieutenant-Governor said that the application of the proceeds of the tax to public works would be the best investment of the famine fund. Now, nobody denies that the public works are useful and beneficial, but the question is whether such investment would be so productive as to enable the Government to meet famine charges hereafter without calling upon the people to submit to fresh taxation. This point was not made clear by the Lieutenant-Governor. His Honor simply said that care would be taken to undertake such works as would be remunerative. But could His Honor say that the past Governments that undertook particular works did not exercise due care in embarking upon such works, and yet what is the result? Deficit and heavy taxation! In times of drought the canals become as dry as the parched fields. As for Railways, they have been certainly a most useful auxiliary to relief measures, but the Railways only carry the food but do not provide the food. The sufferers from the Famine suffer because they have not the means at a time of such calamity to purchase food, and the Government should therefore help them with funds for that purpose. This means extra expenditure, and the Government cannot meet that expenditure without borrowing. Sir John Strachey estimates that expenditure at 15 millions in ten years, which will carry interest to the amount of 60 lacs per annum. Does past experience justify the assertion that the so-called reproductive public works will yield that sum annually? We have said in another

column that although more than 15 millions have been spent upon remunerative State Railways within the last eight or ten years, there is a deficit of about half-a-million in interest and working expenses; hence fresh taxation cannot be avoided in case of a future famine, if the proceeds of the new taxes be applied in the way proposed. The native member, who protested against the passing of the bill in its present form, did not object to taxation for famine purposes, but urged its application to the redemption of debt so that with the amount saved in interest now the Government would be able to meet the charge of interest for fresh famine loans hereafter, and this suggestion His Honor was pleased to stigmatize as "selfish." His Honor said, "it seemed to His Honor a most selfish policy for this generation to throw upon posterity the cost of paying for famines which did not occur in their time, and what would be the result of meeting famines by continual, instead of yearly raising fresh money to meet them whenever they arose." We leave it to the reader to say whether the application of the proceeds of the tax, as had been suggested, to the redemption of debt in view of future requirements, was tantament to "throwing upon posterity the cost of paying for famines." On the contrary does not Sir John Strachey's scheme mean that the present generation should bear the burden for the benefit of posterity?

THE FAMINE COMMISSION.

THE Despatch of the Secretary of State on the appointment of a Famine Commission has been drawn up in a very clever and artistic manner. Lord Salisbury has managed to put in all the points of difference in the famine policy between the Government of India and the local Governments of Madras and Bombay without making his remarks in any way offensive. In the first place Lord Salisbury, while acknowledging the services of Lord Lytton in personally heading the famine campaign at a most critical period of the struggle, says, "it is not easy to ascertain with precision in what cases these praiseworthy efforts were rewarded with complete success, or how far they were defeated. The evidence which has been offered upon this subject is conflicting, and is evidently based more upon estimate than upon accurate knowledge." In the second place His Lordship draws attention to the system of relief followed. He says, "scientific questions of much interest have been in issue in respect to the operations of relief, and have probably colored some of the extreme views which have been expressed upon this point. The simultaneous appearance of epidemic diseases, especially of cholera in a visitation of unusual severity, has lent an additional and formidable element of uncertainty to the information we possess in respect to the famine mortality of the past year; for it appears that deaths from cholera and from want are often attended by symptoms sufficiently similar to mislead an untrained observer." His Lordship would not press an enquiry into the real extent of famine mortality, for such an enquiry would certainly be inconvenient, but we do not see how it can be avoided. In the third place the Secretary of State glosses over the differences between the Government of India and the local Governments, particularly the Government of Madras, for he is of opinion that the success in that Presidency to combat with the calamity for certain reasons "must remain in great uncertainty," but a full and impartial report of famine relief operations cannot but shew why success was not achieved in all matters. In the fourth place the Secretary of State says, "some points in the actual administration of relief were, during the past few months, the subject of warm controversy, while some others, which have reference either to the prevention of future famines, or to the mitigation of the sufferings they cause, are still anxiously debated. It is desirable that the opportunity should not be lost of investigating these by the light of the experience which has been recently acquired. It must be for some time doubtful how far the meteorological phenomena of the last twelve years are to be taken as a fair sample of the climate of India. But in any case it is evident that the protection of the people of India from the effects of the uncertainty of the seasons will constitute in the future no inconsiderable portion of the work of the Government." In the fifth place Lord Salisbury remarks, "one of the earliest points upon which discussion arose was the size and class of relief works which it was expedient to encourage. His Lordship notices the difference between the Government of India and the Government of Bombay in the first instance." In the sixth place His Lordship says, "your Excellency in Council from the first insisted that the task of distributing grain throughout the famine area should be left to the unrestricted operations of trade. Under the principle you prescribed, no grain was imported by Government, with the exception of that which had been purchased by the Madras Government during the earliest weeks of the distress. In the Madras famine it appears to have been highly successful; in the Bengal famine a considerable deviation from it was found to be necessary; and its too rigid observance in the Orissa famine led to a great calamity. A careful examination, therefore, into the circumstances of its application during the past distress will be of material utility." In the seventh place his Lordship recommends an enquiry into the question of famine ration. He thus remarks on this point:

"Another question which occupied the anxious attention both of your Government and that of Madras, during the earlier stages of the famine was the amount and quality of food which is necessary to sustain a Native of Southern India in a condition fit for labor. A warm controversy arose among the medical advisers of the three Governments, in which the question was argued to a great extent upon theoretic grounds, and upon analogies derived from the experience of soldiers and convicts. This method of investigation led to no satisfactory conclusion, though possibly at the time no other was fully available. The experience of the past year will, if sufficient breadth and variety of evidence be collected, render it possible to arrive at a definite conclusion upon this vital point.

Then comes the question of preventive measures. Referring to it the Secretary of State says:

"Works of irrigation are naturally the most effective remedy for a deficiency of rainfall, and no doubt can be entertained of the benefit they confer wherever they can be had without excessive cost, and where there is a permanent and sufficient supply of water to sustain them. The Government of India has spent, and is still spending very large sums in the construction of them. More than sixteen millions sterling have already been laid out, and the works which are in course of construction, or which have been sanctioned will, before they are completed, have cost 6,373,000*l*, more. The financial results of these undertakings have varied remarkably. The earlier works, especially those which have been constructed in the localities already selected for that purpose by the earlier rulers of the country, have been singularly profitable. According to estimates now before me, the Eastern Jumna Canal has yielded 36 per cent., and the Western Jumna 27 per cent., no account, however, being taken of the value of the work which had been done by former rulers, or of the costs which has still to be incurred before these undertakings are complete. The irrigation works in the low countries of the Madras Presidency have also produced large returns. Cauvery Delta, one of the earliest English works, is stated to have yielded 86 per cent., the Godavery Delta, 21 per cent., and the Kristna Delta 15 per cent. But more recent undertakings have been very much less successful, and some in a financial point of view have completely failed. The Orissa Canal system, and the Madras Irrigation Company's Canal, stretching over a length of 749 miles, and costing together more than 3,000,000*l*., have not only returned nothing for the money laid out upon them, but have not, up to this year, paid their working expenses. The aggregate amount of interest which has been paid by Government on account of the capital sunk in these two undertakings, has been 1,400, 000*l*., making the total sum lost 4,400,000*l*. The greatest number of acres irrigated by the Orissa Canal in any one year up to the close of 1876-77 has been 94,777, by the Madras Company's Canal, 94,945. This unfortunate result is due, in some degree, to the refusal of the ryots in the vicinity of these canals to avail themselves of the water offered to them. The cause of their reluctance is imperfectly ascertained, but it probably arises from the fact that in ordinary years they enjoy sufficient rainfall to conduct their traditional methods of cultivation.

Accordingly his Lordship suggests it is probable that the localities suited for profitable irrigation are very limited in area, and that the list of canals which the Government can undertake without loss cannot be largely extended. The value of Railways as an insurance is also alluded to. The Secretary of State does not however wish to restrict the enquiry to the above points. Much, however, will depend upon the *personnel* of the Commission. Major General Richard Strachey, who has been appointed President of the Commission, is a man of great ability, though not without crotchets, but as we remarked in our last issue his relationship with Sir John Strachey detracts from his otherwise high qualifications. A perfectly independent element in the Commission is much to be desired.

MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENT OF CALCUTTA.

II.

WE considered last week the *personnel* of the Calcutta Corporation. We propose to discuss in this article the charge usually brought against it —that it is too talkative. As comparison is made between the late and present corporations, let us see whether the new Municipal Commissioners have been more talkative than the late Justices. An examination of the municipal debates in the past and at present will, we doubt not, satisfy the most fastidious person that there is less talk now than before. It is superfluous for us to say that public questions cannot be decided without talk, long or small, and that the character of talk in public bodies is to a great extent regulated by the information possessed and the earnestness of convictions entertained by different speakers. Life itself is a long talk. If the world consisted only of mutes, then society would hardly exist. In all the waking moments of life man spends much of his time in talk, whether for business, instruction or pleasure. Public life in the civilized world means a war of words. In India paragraphs take the place of talk, simply because there are so few opportunities, when lungs are called into requisition. Nevertheless there is talkativeness enough in the official world in India. The Secretary of State about two years ago hurled his anathemas against "official talkativeness," which was also the subject of Parliamentary talk. But the "talkee, talkee" is still going on. A distinguished officer once said, "we decide the fate of India at the dinner-table." And this is perfectly true. There is, however, this difference between talk at the dinner table and at public meetings. The *tete-a-tete* at the dinner table is carried on in secret, and therefore the outside public is not scandalized, whereas the debates at deliberative assemblies open to the public are reported to the reading world, and high-handedness cannot therefore be concealed. But according to modern ideas of civilized government publicity is the soul of business and the best safeguard against official caprice and violence. Publicity is a two-edged tool; it cuts both ways; if the ministerialists are aggressive, partial, and unjust, publicity is a powerful corrective, while if the Opposition are factious, unreasonable, and insolent, publicity supplies the same remedy. Both are before the bar of public opinion, the unwritten laws of which exercise a most healthy sway. If the Calcutta Corporation should possess any semblance of Representative Government, it must have publicity, and judging it by the test of publicity let us consider how has the Corporation gone on in the past and at present.

It is said that the Corporation Meetings are scandalous. Have the meetings of the present Corporation been more scandalous than those of the past? There are many among our readers, we believe, who remember the early days of the late Corporation of Calcutta. And could anything have been more scandalous than the debates in those days. Who that remembers the debate on the appointment of the Health-Officer of the Town, will dare say that there has been any perallel to it in the present Corporation? There was an indecent scramble for the office. The Corporation was divided into different sections on this subject, and each party sought to bring in its own protege. No regard was paid to the interests of the town. When the vote on the question of salary was taken, there was a regular auction-bidding. The bid commenced with a salary of Rs. 700, it then ascended in a progressive ratio, Rs. 800, Rs. 900, Rs. 1,000, Rs. 1,200, Rs. 1,400, Rs. 1,500 till the hammer was knocked down to Rs. 1,600! And while this bidding was going on every body was laughing in his sleeve. Nobody cared for the interests of the rate-payers, who would have to pay the piper. The scene at this meeting reminded one of the old fable of the boys and frogs—what was sport to the big boys, we mean the Justices, was death to the frogs, we mean the rate-payers. We would ask the reader to refresh his memory a little more and call to mind a few more scenes of that kind. Could anything have been more scandalous than the invectives, which Mr. Justice Hobhouse hurled upon the devoted

head of Sir Stuart Hogg for his proposal to reduce the highly paid Health-Officer to the position of sanitary adviser of the Town. Sir Stuart had then newly come to office. He had not contracted local prejudices, and he saw that the enormous Health Establishment was an incubus upon the municipal fund. He felt that if the Health-Officer were appointed a sanitary adviser of the Town on Rs. 500 a month, the work would go on as well as before, while a considerable saving to the municipal fund would be effected. Accordingly he consulted the Finance Committee, who agreed with him. But how did he fare at the hands of the Bengal, Behar and Orissa Justices, who were then members of the Corporation? Dr. Tonnerre as a homœopath had friends in high quarters—it was said that Lord Lawrence, who was then the Viceroy, and Sir Henry Maine, the then Law Member, had a partiality for Hannemann—and Mr. Justice Hobhouse was we believe also a homœpath, and the latter took the disconsolate doctor's brief. In a speech, which lasted for about two hours, he flung the grossest invectives upon Stuart Hogg, calling him all sorts of names, ambitious, arbitrary, capricious, grasping, haughty, unjust, vindictive, and what not, but there was not a single Justice, who resented these assaults and insults upon the Chairman. A no less scandalous scene was enacted when the report of the Revision Committee of 1868 was laid before the Justices. Then Judges of the High Court, Secretaries to the Government of India, and other high officials mustered in great strength to defeat the labours of the Committee, simply because there were personal questions at issue. There were repeated scandals in connection with the Market question, the Drainage question, the Water supply question, the Burning Ghat question, and many others too numerous to name. Now, we ask, has there been any parallel to such scandals at the meetings of the present Corporation? And let it be borne in mind that the corporation was then based on the principle of selection and not election, that the members were Government nominies and not the elected representatives of the town. The present Commissioners are blamed for passing votes of censure upon the Chairman and Health-Officer, the one for spending large sums of money without authority, and the other for abusing his own employers But were such votes of censure unknown in the days of the old Justices? Was not a vote of censure passed upon the late Mr. Schalch not for spending money but for writing a letter to Government without the authority of the Justices? Was not the late Health-Officer repeatedly censured by the late Justices for perfunctory work, and perverse language, though nothing like what came from his successor the other day, against his masters? The impatience and impertinence of Municipal officers against their employers are not new. The reader doubtless remembers the interesting meeting between Mr. Clarke, the Municipal Engineer, and Mr. Wilson, a Justice. Mr. Clarke was annoyed with some remarks of Mr. Wilson on his drainage scheme, and he met his opponent at Phillipi—we mean at the theatre house, and had recourse to the *argumentum baculum*. This was strictly speaking a Police case, but it was brought up before the Justices, who however made a common cause with their injured brother, and sharply censured their Engineer. Why then condemn the present Commissioners for talk, or call their debates scandals? The present Commissioners do not talk by the hour as the old Justices did. They may not have handles to their names or the weight of official rank, but they work hard, honestly, and thoroughly. The Chairman in his last quarterly report acknowledged the services of the Finance Committee in Budget deliberations. For two months they attended three days a week to consider the Budget and the Night-soil estimates, and they peformed their work perseveringly and ungrudgingly. We should like to knew how many Committees of the old Justices did so much hard work as this. The Lieutenant Governor has advised the Corporation that they should do their work chiefly in Committee; they do so, but they speak out when the Committees are ignored. Take for instance the Tank Committee. This Committee was appointed at the instance of the Chairman, and the procedure for it was laid down by him. But when they saw that the proprietors of tanks were being indiscriminately served with penal notices *without asking the Committee to examine the tanks, that tanks were being de-watered without an attempt to fill them, thus generating disease which it was intended to prevent, that more tanks were taken in hand than there were materials to* fill them up, were they wrong in "talking" about it and calling the executive to account? Similarly were the Commissioners to blame for censuring the Chairman for spending money like water on the Night-soil establishment without consulting the Special Committee or the Corporation? It is said in reply why did not the Special Committee or the Commissioners stop the Chairman in his illegal course at the beginning? Suppose they had done so, would not the Commissioners have been charged with thwarting the executive in the carrying out of an important sanitary reform? The Commissioners did ask for information at the outset, but the executive answered that they wanted time to mature their scheme and arrangements. The Commissioners then appointed a Special Committee and instructed the Chairman to consult them in all matters, but this Committee was practically ignored. But the Committee were not silent. They had been asked by the Chairman to sanction certain charges by driblets, which they refused to pass, saying that they wanted the whole estimate of the scheme, but the Chairman still wanted time to prepare it. And when the Chairman's report was produced, the Commissioners found that there was a heavy deficit in the municipal fund, which necessitated heavy taxation. Would such unauthorized expenditure have been passed in silence by any other corporation in the civilized world? As for the vote of censure upon the Health-Officer, may we ask would the Government have received such an intemperate and insulting report from a subordinate? Did not the Secretary of State suspend the other day Mr. Rice, a Madras Civilian, for writing an intemperate letter to his official superior? Are then the Commissioners of Calcutta to blame for maintaining their self-respect? There was talk at the last two meetings of the Corporation, but it was perfectly Parliamentary talk. If the color of the speakers damns the talk of the Municipal Commissioners, then we have nothing to say in reply. But as talk takes place in the Legislative Councils and in all public bodies, and as our Governors even condescend to talk on appropriate occasions much to the edification and delight of the public, we cannot understand why the moderate talk in the Calcutta Corporation should call forth reproach or be held to disqualify the Commissioners to manage the affairs of the town.

THE MAHARAJA OF KUCH BEHAR.

His Highness the Maharaja of Kuch Behar is the most interesting personage at the present moment in Bengal. His approaching marriage with the daughter of Babu Keshub Chunder Sen has we observe provoked much comment. We have been asked to notice it, but we do not see what have the public to do with this marriage, which is a purely private affair. It is a matter between the guardian of the Maharaja, who is a minor of fifteen or sixteen years, and Babu Keshub Chunder Sen, the father of the bride. Babu Keshub Chunder Sen, as a father and leader of the Progressive Brahmos, thoroughly understands his position, and when he deliberately takes a step, the public may rest satisfied that he has good reasons for it, and it would be simply impertinent on the part of those, who respect him and value his character, to drag him before the bar of public opinion for an act, which is wholly private, and of which he is the best judge. But there is another matter in connection with the Maharaja of Kuch Behar, which deserves public notice. It is his rumoured visit to England. We are informed that this rumour has made the Maharanis, the Court, and people of Kuch Behar very unhappy. They complain that the Government as the guardian of the Maharaja should take the step of sending him to England not for education but for mere travel. If the object be to enable the Maharaja to see the wonders of the European world, they justly ask, what permanent or profitable impressions can a boy of fifteen, whose mind is by no means formed, carry from such sight-seeing. They hold *that as the proposed visit involves the vital question of religion and social customs, the Government, observing as it does strict neutrality in matters of religion, ought not to be the active promoter of such a visit. The Maharanis have* accordingly addressed the following letter to Lord Ulick Browne, the Commissioner:

To LORD H. ULICK BROWNE,
Commissioner of Cooch Behar.

MY ESTEEMED FRIEND.—When the management of the affairs of the State devolved on us by the death of the late Maharajah Norendra Narain Bhoop, we invited British Government to administer the State, during the minority of the present Maharajah, on the ground of our inability. In doing so, we had hoped that our religion caste and social position would not in any way be interfered with, or allowed to suffer, directly or indirectly. During the administration of Colonel J. F. Haughton, C.S.I., the first Commissioner, this principle was strictly adhered to and acted upon. We now hear with great concern that measures are being adopted without our knowledge and approbation for sending the Maharajah to England. This measure, if carried out, will strike at the root of our religion and caste and not only lower us in the estimation of our relations here and abroad, *viz* Maharajah of Bijni, the Tejeot. of Bycoutpur, the Zemindars of Pirbut Jawor and Luckeempore and others, but even degradation, by excommunication, will be the result. Europeans will hardly be able to realize the full force of this argument, on account of the great diversity of ideas of the two nations on this subject. For instance our caste people will not take food with us, the Brahmins will not perform our religious ceremonies, shrad, poojahs, &c. It would be difficult to marry our children, for no one will be inclined to contract relationship with an outcast. The Maharaja is now a minor and even if he feels inclined to do an act which would be detrimental to his caste, you and His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal, ought not to accord your sanction. Besides we do not see any present necessity of sending our only boy, in whom centres all our future hopes, to England at a great cost and if the climate and the intense cold of the place would not agree with him, and his health would succumb our disappointment would know no bound. Under these circumstances we humbly pray that you will be pleased to move His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal to desist from sending the Maharajah to England, till he attains majority.

I remain my esteemed friend,
Yours faithfully,
Grandmother of the MAHARAJA, COOCH BEHAR.

We must confess that the Maharanis have a just grievance in this matter. The Maharaja is only fifteen years of age, and is not therefore competent to judge for himself. If he has expressed any wish to see Europe, the Government ought to have told him to gratify his wish when he attains majority and able to think for himself. The Maharaja may have many other wishes, which the Government as his guardian may not think fit to foster. The relations between the Government and the Maharaja are sacred; the Government stands in *loco parentis* and the Maharaja *statu pipularri*. And the letter which we give above shews what are the feelings of the natural guardians of the Maharaja, his grand-mother, mother and step mothers, in the matter. It cannot be reasonable for the Government to trifle with or ignore their feelings. If the Government, regardless of the remonstrances of the Maharanis, sends the Maharaja to England at this early age, its attitude may well alarm all parents, whose boys may pass under the guardianship of Government under the Court of Wards. If the Maharaja of Kutch Behar be sent to England by Government at the age of fifteen, why may not other wards of good means may not be similarly sent to England? We do not wish to discuss here the question of the advantages or disadvantages of sending to England boys, who are in their teens, but we submit that the Government is bound to consult the feelings and opinions of the parents and relatives of a ward in a matter like this. There seems to be already a feeling in Kuch Behar that who knows that the Maharaja may not turn out another Dhuleep Sing. In noticing the existence of this feeling we do not by any means wish to cast any sort of reflection upon the Maharaja Dhuleep Sing, who has become a valuable member of English society, and who is deservedly esteemed for his manly qualities. But we ought to look at the question from an Indian point of view, and we believe we speak the sense of the whole native community when we say that they would consider it a national misfortune if Indian chiefs and noblemen should cut off their connection with their fatherland, and domicile themselves in the United Kingdom. Of course there is nothing to prevent them from taking that course, if they like, when they have passed non-age, but the motives of the Government we fear are liable to be misunderstood, if it lends its weight and influence in bringing about such results. The Government is doubtless actuated by praise-

worthy motives in proposing to send the Maharaja to England, but whatever the Government may do in a matter like this, it ought to place itself in the position of an Indian parent. Hitherto the guardianship of Government wards under the Court of Wards has inspired the confidence of the people, because the Government has followed the policy of strict neutrality in religious matters. But as a visit to England involves grave religious and social considerations, the Government we humbly think cannot do better than abstain from influencing a ward in the position of the Maharaja in taking a step in life, to which his mother, relatives and people are opposed on conscientious grounds, however mistaken.

THE MADRAS SALT QUESTION.

THE Secretary of State has asked the Government of India for an early expression of its opinion on the important question of the substitution of an excise for the present system of salt monopoly in Madras. The reader may remember that a little more than two years ago, the Marquis of Salisbury at the instance of persons interested in the Cheshire salt trade, instructed Lord Northbrook to appoint a Commission to consider and report on the whole subject. A Commission consisting of revenue officers from Bengal, Madras and Bombay was accordingly organized. The Commission assembled in Madras and submitted its report in September 1876. This report has not yet been published; but it is understood that the Commission has recommended the cautious introduction of the excise system at two of the principal coast ports having railway communication with the interior, holding "that an abrupt general excise would upset the existing arrangements for the salt service of the country, without providing any immediate substitute." It is on this proposal that the Government of India has now been called upon by the Secretary of State for an expression of its opinion.

When the Commission was appointed we feared that they would advise the abolition of the present system of Madras monopoly. The principles of free trade have got such a strong hold of the public mind in these days that the members of the Commission would have made themselves liable to a serious reproach in the eyes of the English free-traders, if they had recommended the maintenance of the existing monopoly. In case they had done so, they would have been considered as lagging behind the age. Then, in the Bengal and Bombay Presidencies salt is now excised; and the Commission would have found it a difficult task to justify the continuance of the monopoly in Madras, which has existed since 1805. Judged by abstract principles alone, the view taken by the Commission, of course, appears to be sound. The advocates of the excise contend "that it is a much less troublesome revenue machine to work than the monopoly. That without enhancing the selling price of salt, a larger profit to the State can be made out of it. That the salt-interests of the merchants engaged in the salt trade would place a sudden effectual check on smuggling, &c., than at present exist. That a better article would be supplied to consumers. That free trade in salt, once established, reciprocal benefits would accrue to English and Indian commerce. That the natives engaged in salt manufacture would turn their labor to a more profitable account, and that their moral tone would be elevated." These are the advantages claimed for the excise by its supporters. It cannot be denied that the Madras monopoly is at variance with the principles of free trade. But in deciding upon any measure the Government ought to base its decision not upon theoretical grounds, but upon practical considerations. We also admit that the monopoly salt, though good, is inferior to the salts of Europe. It may be conceded too that to excise the salt would, perhaps, be slightly more profitable than the monopoly.

When we have said this much we have exhausted all that could be urged in favour of the substitution of the excise for the monopoly in Madras. We will now look to the other side of the picture. It is worth considering what effect the introduction of the excise would have on the people of the Presidency. In the first place, it should be borne in mind that a strong prejudice against foreign imported salt, and especially against Cheshire salt, exists in Madras. The question is whether the Government should force the people to consume the imported foreign salt against their will. But the introduction of the excise would reduce the natives of Madras to the *necessity* of eating English salt; and it might be easily imagined what would be the feeling among them. It may be argued that the prejudice against Cheshire salt would disappear in Madras as speedily as it did in Bengal. But we do not think so. Madras is still far behind the Lower Provinces of Bengal in point of progress. The Madras people are much more prejudiced than those of Bengal. One who has been to the Southern Presidency cannot have failed to observe the vast difference that exists in this respect between the Bengali and the Madrasi. It should also be remembered that English salt has not yet found its way into the market in Orissa. The Uriya whom the Madrasi so much resembles has not yet taken to consuming the imported foreign salt, which is decidedly superior to the home-made article. In these circumstances, the Government ought to pause before forcing English salt upon the natives of Madras.

Nor is this all. We should carefully weigh what effect the introduction of the excise system has had in Bengal. When Mr. Ashley Eden was Secretary to the Board of Revenue, Lower Provinces, the Bengal monopoly was knocked on the head. Fifteen years have since elapsed; and we are in a position to form a definite opinion on the subject. It is well known that the locally made salt in Bengal has been wholly displaced by the imported foreign article. The excise salt could not hold its own against Cheshire salt; and the consequence has been that five-sevenths of sixty millions of people in the Lieutenant-Governorship of Bengal are now entirely dependent on a foreign country for the supply of a necessary article of life and health. The introduction of the excise system in Madras will surely produce the same result. Cheshire salt could be sold so cheap in India that the excise salt would be unable to compete with it. The reason why the English article could be sold so cheap in this country is that it has to pay very low freights. It is well known that the exports from this country greatly exceed the imports into it. Ships come from England empty to India to carry away its produce; and they can afford to bring salt from Liverpool at nominal freights. The eighty millions people in Bengal and Bombay have been already made dependent on a foreign country for the supply of a necessary article of life and health; and whether the same thing ought to be done in respect of the thirty millions of Madrasis is a matter for serious consideration. It is as clear as the most elementary proposition that in case of war between England and a maritime power freights would rise, and a great diminution in the quantity of salt shipped for India would naturally take place. The result would be a salt famine in Bengal, Madras and Bombay, which could not be sufficiently met by importations from the Sambhur Lake and the mines in the salt range in the Punjab. The Government should seriously consider this aspect of the question, before deciding upon the abolition of the Madras monopoly. Again, the introduction of the excise system in Madras would lead to the ultimate extermination of the large class of salt-manufacturers in that Presidency. They would be thrown out of employ, and reduced to severe distress. It is all very well to say that the natives now engaged in salt manufacture would be set free to turn their labor to more profitable account, and that their moral nature would be elevated. But such a thing is sooner said than done. Do we not know that a very great difficulty already exists in providing employment for the working classes in this country? Are we not aware that their lot is even now as hard as can be borne? Have we not seen to what wretched conditions the molungees or the salt manufactures of Bengal—the richest and most advanced province in the Empire—have been reduced? The Cheshire salt has ruined the molungees of Bengal in the same way as the Manchester cottons have ruined the weavers. Both these classes have been deprived of the means of earning their livelihood; and whenever a bad season occurs, they are the first to suffer. Would Government reduce the salt manufacturers of Madras to the same miserable position as the molungees of Bengal are in? The English trade in salt is already very extensive. It now stands *third* on the General Export Returns, coal and iron only ranking before it. India is already the *second* best customer which Cheshire has got, North America only ranking before it. In the face of the facts we have adduced we sincerely trust that Lord Salisbury will not hastily decree the abolition of the Madras monopoly for the benefit of persons interested in the Cheshire salt trade.

MR. WATTS' BOTANY. *

When we heard of this book, we thought it was the much-talked-of English original from which the author's Bengali version had been prepared. Such is, however, not the case. The new work is quite distinct, and a much more useful book than its predecessor. In extent it is limited to 140 duodecimo pages, of which about 60 have been devoted to woodcuts, leaving about 80 pages of matter, which would scarcely fill two sheets of the *Hindoo Patriot*. Within this short compass the author has, however, condensed a great deal of matter which cannot fail to interest those light-minded and superficial beings usually styled general readers, who are not supposed to be particularly choice about the literary provender they get, and also a good deal that they do not want. The object which the author set before him was not to teach Botany, but to convey a general idea of the physiology and economy of vegetable life, in simple language unencumbered by the shibboleth of scientific terminology, and in so far he has been fairly successful. His illustrations too are moderately good, and, having been taken principally from the Flora of India, are interesting. To those who are familiar with Darwin's "Forms of Flowers," and "Cross and Self-fertilization" a few facts here and there in it might appear reminiscences of what they knew before, but such facts are not of a character which can be objected to in an elementary book. On the contrary the reproduction of such ideas in a popular form is a positive advantage. Certain it is that there is nothing in it of the wholesale borrowing of sentences, paragraphs and plates which led to so much angry discussion regarding the author's Bengali book. We can congratulate the author also on his new essay being generally free from those scientific mistakes which disfigured his first work. Of course no wheat can grow without chaff and straw, and it would be unreasonable to expect Mr. Watts' new book to be an exception; but the errors observable in it are not numerous, and such as they are they are mostly excusable. We cannot, however, help noticing a few which we were not prepared to meet in the work of a learned professor whose special duty it is to teach Botany, and who, if we mistake not, was expressly brought out from England for the purpose. A remarkable one occurs on page 91, where we are told that "towards the end of the rains, this tree (the *shimul* or *Bombax malabaricum*) sheds its leaves, so that its large red and showy flowers may be seen at a great distance. The advantage of this is evident, since the plant is fertilized by crows, minas, and squirrels." We know not whether the leaves are shed to make the flowers visible to crows, or according to the laws of hybernation which regulate the fall of leaves of so many other trees which bear no red flowers, nor require the services of crows and minas for their fertilization, but which nevertheless shed their leaves in winter; but as we write we have now in front of our room two *shimul* trees covered with scarlet flowers and numbers of crows. A week ago one of them was so covered it, had no leaves, but the other had blackish buds only, and a good many leaves. Is it possible that these flowers have been there since the close of the rains in September

* Lessons in Elementary Botany for General Readers with one hundred illustrations. By George Watt M.B.C.M. F. L. S. Professor of Botany, Hooghly College, Calcutta, 1877.

ast? or did our eyes betray us when we saw leaves a week ago, though they had all fallen six months before to make the flowers visible in this month? or does Mr. Watts believe the rains to close in February? The first is not likely, for Voight, in his *Hortus Suburbanus Calcuttensis*, notes the flowering season of both the *swet shimul* and the *rakta shimul* to be February and March; the second would be inconsistent; and the third would not be tolerated by usage. Any how there is scarcely a lad in all Bengal who is not familiar with the tree; and the fact of its pods bursting with the first sound of the drum *(dhak)* during the Charak Pujah festival in April is known to most boys, and a crass mistake in connexion with it cannot but lower the author in their estimation. On the same page the author remarks: "The seeds obtained from self-fertilized fruits are sickly, and this, together with the efforts to ensure cross-fertilization *points to cross-fertilization, and not self-fertilization as the law of nature.* As with plants, so with men and animals, the intermarriage of near relations is decidedly injurious." As the author emphasises the dictum by putting a line of matter in Italics, it may not be amiss to enquire are the theories enunciated really facts? If so, why did nature make the bulk of flowering plants hermaphrodites, *i. e.*, bearing both the male and the female organs in the same flower? The opportunities for self-fertilization has thereby been multiplied manifold more than what can possibly be effected by crows, minas, squirrels and insects. Experiments very carefully conducted by Hildebrand and Darwin also show that (*Forms of Flowers, p* 37 *et seq*) that the result of cross fertilization in the *Primula Vulgaris* and the *Primula sinensis* was any thing but favorable. Adverting to two sets of experiments Darwin says: "The ratio for the number of seeds produced by the two legitimate compared with the two illegitimate unions is here 100 to 53." Other experiments produced other results, but all tending to show that the number of capsules, and that of the seeds were less in illegitimate than in legitimate unions, and the seeds produced were lighter, and less valuable. In the case of cleistogamic flowers which include no less than 55 genera no cross-fertilization is possible as the flowers remain closed and never allow any opportunity for crossing, and yet their seeds are perfect, and reproduce wealthy plants. All these errors are due to careless reading of Darwin and hasty generalization. Had the author borne in mind that notwithstanding unity of design, there is great diversity in carrying it out in different orders of plants, he would have avoided the great jumble of truth and untruth into which he has fallen. But admitting that in some plants cross-fertilization is beneficial what lesson can we derive from it regarding human beings? Bocca, the great Italian ethnologist in his work on Hybridity, has collected a large mass of facts to show that hybridity in human beings tends to degeneracy. Were it otherwise still it would be difficult to show that there is any similitude between self-fertilization and intermarriage of near relations. We do not wish here to raise the question of interbreeding in human beings, but we hold that Mr. Watts' text does not justify his commentary. On page 120 we are told that "the rays of the sun being more perpendicular (in India) vegetable growth reaches in these regions its greatest development, every spot is densely peopled; and what in a cold climate would be but herb becomes a shrub or tree." This is a reproduction of a theory of Buckle; but we can not say that it is invariably or generally true. Certain it is that while in Australia and Vandeman's Land some of the Araucarias, rise to the stupendous height of 3 to 4 hundred feet, no tree on the Indian plains attains to the length of a hundred feet. Had the author referred to rankness instead of the greatest development he would have been nearer the mark. In his Bengali book the author said that the ends of tender rootlets alone can absorb moisture; this he has improved upon now by adding that leaves also absorb; had he added that cut ends of branches and stumps of thick roots as also the inner side of the bark can also do the same, he would have easily accounted for the multiplication of plants by cuttings, layers, grafts and eyes. There are several other facts equally erroneous or misleading, but we can not afford space to notice them here. We can not, however, close this note without adverting two other peculiarities of the book. One of these is the use of metaphoric language, and the other a tendency to indulge in sermons without the surplice. In Ovid's Metamorphosis, Æsop's Fables, and in poetry generally we are accustomed to allegories and personifications; but in a sober elementary treatise on Botany we cannot but think them quite out of place. On page 93 "the curved up style (of the sensitive plant) makes a *Salam* by straightening itself and then curving downwards" to the bee that enters the tube of the flower. The Aristolochea (p 101) "is not satisfied with merely having its own pistil fertilized; it retains the insects, in order that when its stamens ripen, they may carry to yet another flower the fertilising influence." It does also "manifest, conscious action." and "seems as wise as the insects which it uses to accomplish its own purposes." "The Vallisneria (p 90) "selects its husband." Plants do not absorb, but "eat" their food: when men swallow fluids they drink, but when plants absorb moisture they "eat," not drink. They are said also to "perspire," "The fluid secreted by the leaves of insectivorous plants," is their perspiration, and "it bears the same relation as the fluids of the stomach &c., bear to the perspiration of animals." (p 71). The author apparently thanks the gastric juice to be the perspiration of man. They likewise "manifest distinct efforts to defend themselves from the attacks of animals"; "have a distinct knowledge that a tree requires spines or armour upon its lower parts only," and are guided by a "determination to ascend." "There is a plant in America, the under surface of whose leaves has an *equal desire* with the upper surface to expose itself to the light," (p 65]. God has provided them "with a kind of instinct to guide them in their actions," and they are "so cruel as to lay traps to deceive and kill insects," (p 69). After saying that some plants lay traps to kill insects for food, it is not remarkable to notice that some of them also "steal." But the line must be drawn somewhere, and that's why, we fancy, the author does not tell us that they have Penal Codes, Police Magistrates and Divorce courts. Of the sermons or more correctly speaking little sermonettes we have already quoted a sample in connexion with our remarks on self-fertilization. Another occurs on p 90, where, adverting to the Vallisnerea, the author asks, "Does not this plant manifest a degree of intelligence and independence (in this respect at all events) superior to the Hindoo, who is not allowed to select his own partner in life?" On p 34 we are told "near relations are often better at a little distance from each other.' This is we suppose particularly the case when the mother or sister interferes with the independence of the wife. On p 64, the author moralises that "Plants often find eating food hard enough work; just as the poor bullock in this country finds it difficult to get sufficient food to enable him to do his work, since *no one thinks it necessary to cultivate special food for him.*" We suppose all the pigeon gram, kalai, straw and bajra are stored for human consumption only. The Italics are the author's. On p 35 we have a very affecting sermon on the text "In the midst of life we are in death." On page 76 the homily on man's sinful nature is particularly affecting. On p 123 there is another equally affecting on "the atmosphere, moral and intellectual." On p 118 we have another to show that "it will be a good day for India when her children waken to see beauty, interest, wisdom, goodness, and fatherly love in God's Works around them." Elsewhere such incoherent, petulant, and inappropriate outbursts of feeling are not uncommon, and everywhere they are founded on false premises. The man, who, under garb of business comes to us to preach a sermon, is a bore; but he, who makes the "general reader" pay for Botany and smuggles in under cover of it, like Manchester moral handkerchiefs, such wares as these deserves perhaps a worse name.

LATEST NEWS AND NOTES.

TWO MEMBERS of the Bengal Council go out by rotation, *viz.*, Nawab Mir Mahomed Ali and Babu Ramsunkur Sen. Two worthy members of the bar have been selected to fill the vacancies, *viz.*, Mr. Amir Ali, Barrister-at-law, and Babu Mohinimohun Roy, Pleader, High Court. The nominations are unexceptionable.

AS GREAT hubbab has been raised about the omission of His Highness the Maharaja Sindia to visit His Honor the Lieutenant Governor during his recent stay in Calcutta, we deem it due to mention that His Honor never in any way directly or indirectly took notice of this apparent want of discourtesy of the Maharaja. We believe His Honor did not even make any remarks on the subject till his attention was drawn to it by its notice in the press. As we said in our last, those who know Mr. Eden, know well that he is above such petty-mindedness. At the same time we think that the Foreign Office ought to keep the Native Princes informed of the proper etiquette in matters like this. Even H. R. H. the Prince of Wales did not consider it *infra dig* to visit the local Governors—aye Members of Council too!

MR. O'DONNELL, the leader of the Irish Party, has given notices of motions in the House of Commons on the following Indian subjects:

To call attention to the case of the dismissal of Sir Salar jung's English private secretary by the Government of India; and to move a Resolution. (*An early day.*)

To move for a Royal Commission of Inquiry into famine administration and relief in India, with special reference to the alleged famine in Behar in 1874 and the recent Madras famine. (*An early day.*)

To call attention to the present appointment by the Indian Government of Mr Molesworth Macpherson, first as secretary to the Legislative Council and then as deputy secretary to the Legislative Department. (*An early day.*)

To call attention to the nature and effect of the present imposts upon land in India. (*An early day.*)

To call attention to the method of warfare pursued by Her Majesty's troops and others acting under the Imperial authority in South Africa and Nothern India; and to move a Resolution. (*An early day.*)

Sir George Campbell has given notice of the following motion:

"That the total taxation on salt in India being already excessive should not be increased, and especially a very large additonal burden on an article so essential in life and health should not be placed on the populations of Madras and Bombay at a time when they are enfeebled and emaciated by a very prolonged and severe famine."

AFTER a distinguished service of about thirty years Raja Harendrakrishna Bahadur retires on pension. His nomination to the Covenanted Civil Service made him an object of much envy, and although we could not support it at the time, it would be gross injustice to say that he did not render meritorious service. Without possessing brilliant talents, he has undeniably done good, honest, and unostentious work, which the Government appreciates. The association of a man of the Raja's position with the Subordinate Executive Service is an honor to that service, and throughout his long career he strove his best to uphold its dignity and to advance its lawful claims, which he was so well able to do by reason of his social position and influence. Now that he will be free from the fetters of official life we hope he will take his legitimate position in society as a representative of one of the first families of Bengal. We wish him long life and happiness.

ON SATURDAY LAST the fifty-seventh anniversary of the Oriental Seminary was held with great *eclat*. The *elite* of the Hindu community were present on the occasion. His Honor the Lieutenant Governor presided; after distributing the prizes he made a sensible practical speech. Although the questions which His Honor mooted admit of difference of opinion, and on some points we do not quite agree with His Honor, we cannot deny that His Honor said some hard and wholesome truths, which our countrymen will do well to lay to heart. But we fear His Honor totally misapprehended the motive of those native gentlemen, who cry for greater facilities for the admission of natives into the Civil Service. They do not seek to solve the problem of finding employment for educated natives—they want political justice, and this view o the question was entirely ignored by the Lieu-

tenant-Governor. We propose to notice at length His Honor's speech in our next. It affords us great pleasure to observe that the Oriental Seminary, the *Alma mater* of a long roll of distinguished students, under the superintendence of the present Committee, who are greatly indebted to the indefatigable exertions of their Secretary Babu Bacharam Chatterjea, is rapidly recovering its position. The remarks of Raja Komul Krishna Bahadur on this point on Saturday last were very appropriate. We are glad to learn that the public-spirited Maharani Surat Sunduri of Putia has made a liberal contribution of Rs. 2,000 for a local habitation for the institution, and that Raja Komul Krishna Bahadur has generously offered a like sum for the same purpose. We hope their worthy example will be followed up by other wealthy and public-spirited native gentlemen.

THE MORNING PAPERS have published the judgment and evidence of Mr. Skrine in the Lokenathpore case to which we referred last week. We understand that Mr. Manomohun Ghose, who has from purely public spirit offered his services as an *amicus curæ*, has proceeded to Krishnaghur to file the petition of appeal before the Sessions Court. In the meantime we hear the Government has instructed Mr. Monro to hold a second local investigation. May we ask why does not the Government publish the report of the first investigation? As we said last week, we were promised it four months ago. Mr. Stevens, the District Magistrate, refused to produce it at the trial of the perjury case. This policy of secrecy in a matter, which does not involve any political complications, is simply incomprehensible.

WE HAVE RECEIVED a copy of a Resolution of the Government of India reviewing the proceedings of the several Local Governments regarding the discovery and preservation of the records of ancient Sanskrit literature. The operations were commenced in 1869, but the results have been very unequal in the different parts of the country. Madras comes out a perfect blank, having done nothing; Punjab and Rajputana are in the same predicament. In the Central Provinces there are no MSS. worth noticing. The Oudh Government has published thirteen lists of a very moderate size, and the North-West one. But Bengal and Bombay have made ample amends for the shortcomings of the other provinces. Dr. Rajendralala Mitra's report on Bengal is described as "very interesting," and the Governor-General in Council expresses his highest satisfaction of what has already been done, especially by Dr. Rajendralala Mitra in Bengal, Drs. Buhler and Kielhorn in Bombay and by Mr. Griffith in the North-Western Provinces." It is now proposed to attach Rajputana, Central India and the Central Provinces to the Bombay Circle; Mysore and Coorg to the Madras Circle; and North-Western Provinces, and Oudh into one circle, or, if that be impossible from want of a competent officer, to amalgamate them with the Bengal Circle. For work of the kind proposed we think these circles quite enough. They would effect a great saving of time, expense, and energy.

THE telegraph has brought the melancholy intelligence of the death of two distinguished Anglo-Indians, Dr. Duff, and Mr. Thoby Prinsep. The first was the Prince of Indian Missionaries. Possessed of rare talents and abilities, indomitable energy, fiery eloquence, and a warm heart Dr. Duff brought the highest intellectual and moral qualities to bear on the great and good work, to which he dedicated his life. He laboured long and hard in the cause of Indian education; his name is as widely known in Bengal as that of David Hare, the Father of English Education in this country, and even zenana ladies are familiar with it. In any other walk of life he would have won the highest honors, but he was content to descend to his grave as the devoted servant of his Lord, revered and esteemed by all who knew him. Mr. Thoby Prinsep was the father of the Indian Civil Service. He came to India in 1808, and after attaining the highest position, open to the Civil Service, we mean a seat in the Supreme Council, he retired in 1840. But he was not idle at home. In 1849 he was elected a member of the Court of Directors, and on the dissolution of the East India Company was appointed a member of the Indian Council. A man of vast Indian knowledge, great literary culture, wonderful oriental acquirements, and generous sympathies for the people of India, he was a type of the Indian Civilian now rarely met with. In his latter days he used to pass his time chiefly in reading Arabic. His son, the Hon'ble Mr. H. T. Prinsep, Judge of our High Court, has inherited the large sympathetic heart of his father.

WE HAVE received the following letter about the Naga Expedition from Samaguting dated the 7th instant:

"The punitive expedition against the Mozema Nagas has been brought to an end. It is by no means a successful close. If the men of the Field Force are to be trusted, and we have no other reliable source from which we can glean any bit of information about the expedition, we cannot but pronounce it to be almost abortive. The grounds upon which the war was declared against Mozema are too well known to your readers to require any further mention of them here. The main points were to demand the unconditional surrender of the 25 Mozema men who had committed raids on Gomaigojoo, and for this we fancy the expedition was called a punitive one. The clan which was refractory was let off and the two other clans which were inclined for peace from the beginning were actually punished for the fault of their neighbours. To hold the whole population of a Naga village responsible for the faults of a certain clan is a new policy and its value though wholesome is scarcely applicable to the Nagas of the present day, who have no idea of the responsibility of the whole village community.

It is well known to our Government that they have no recognized leaders. It is also known to our Government that neutral clans are found among the inhabitants of any two villages, which have engaged in actual war with each other. Under such circumstances the best policy is to exact satisfaction from those only who are really guilty. This policy is ever in vogue since the British Government has undertaken to check the internecine feuds among the Nagas. But Government has changed it in its own case. The policy is bold enough and it requires a very bold man to carry it on. Captain Williamson, the popular Deputy Commissioner of the Garos, is undoubtedly the man to carry it on, but he too it is said is against it. In this expedition the Government has lost 5 men and amongst them is Mr. Carnegy, the "Political" in charge of the expedition, who died from a fatal wound received from a sentry of the piquet guard of the field camp. The number of the wounded on the part of the Government is also five. The conditions on which peace has been made has no reference to any satisfaction on account of raids on Gomaigojoo. The loss on the Naga side is one man killed and some houses were burnt down together with all they contained, and these belonged to the two clans who were less refractory."

WE HAVE recieved the following letter from Mr. Justice Markby:

Sir,—Application was made to me the other day for a subscription by a person alleging herself to be in distress. She sent me a long list of subscriptions, amounting, I should say, to nearly Rs. 200, but I did not add them up.

I refused, as I invariably do in such cases, to give anything before making inquiries into the case, and the result of these inquiries has been to show that the person who has obtained this large sum from the public is utterly undeserving.

I desire to bring before the charitable people of Calcutta the great mischief that is done by giving money to applicants for charity without inquiry.

I am connected with a society which, imperfectly perhaps, but still to the best of its power and ability, is grappling with the difficult problem of granting relief to the poor and destitute persons in Calcutta.

One great impediment to our success is, I do not hesitate to say, the immense amount of indiscriminate alms-giving which prevails in this country.

The District Charitable Society is completely organised—the whole Town is divided into districts—for each district there is a committee—there is a central committee to give uniformity to their operations, and there is an Alms House to receive all those for whom out-door relief is unsuitable.

I do not deny that there are still cases for which private charity may be preferable, though they are very rarely those of persons who circulate subscription lists—but if any one desires to know the particulars of any case, he has only to address a letter to the Honorary Secretary of the District Charitable Society at the Office of the Society in the Municipal Market, and our officers will at once furnish the inquirer with full particulars of the case.

The Alms House is in Amherst Street; it is a clean, airy and thoroughly comfortable building—the inmates are well-fed and cared for, and no reasonable person could complain of being placed there. No one is refused admittance who will conform to the rules. If any one doubts the correctness of these statements, he can easily satisfy himself by further inquiry.—Yours, &c.,

WILLIAM MARKBY,
President of the District Charitable Society.
Calcutta, 15th February, 1878.

If Mr. Markby's remarks are intended for the native community, we must confess that their religious tenets and social customs preclude them from acting according to his suggestions. Charity is a religious obligation with them, and to turn away a beggar from one's door is a deadly sin with them. Many wealthy native gentlemen subscribe to the District Charitable Society, but they also at the same time give alms at their doors. Mr. Metcalfe lately invited the opinion of these alms-givers to stop this sort of private charity but they have politely told him that they cannot do so, though they are quite willing to take the aid of the Police on occasions of large distribution of alms.

WE HAVE already acknowledged the receipt of a prospectus of a new dispensary to be established in Calcutta and to be called the Economic Medical Hall. The projectors state:

A Dispensary for the supply of fresh and genuine medicines at moderate rates is a growing desideratum in the native quarter of Calcutta, to meet which it is proposed to establish one on the model of the first class European Institutions in the Southern division by a Joint-stock Company with limited liability, under the name and style of the Economic Medical Hall Co. Ld. with a capital of Rupees 25,000 (with power to increase the same to 50,000.) to be raised by 250 shares of Rupees 100 each. The Economic Medical Hall is to be located on the Upper Chitpore Road, Northern Division.

The project is in good hands and we wish it success.

REVIEW.

A Monograph of 248 cases of Lateral Lithotomy operations performed in the North Western Provinces during a period of twelve years. By Ramnarain Das, Assistant Surgeon.

THE author of this book was one of the first pupils of the Calcutta Medical College. He first established his reputation as a surgeon at Budaon, and the book before us gives an ample proof of his knowledge and skill in his special branch. It has been very widely criticized, and all who are acquainted with the subject and competent to pronounce an opinion upon the work speak highly of it. The *Indian Medical Gazette* says, "taking it for what it is, a good record of experience and an excellent pathological map of calculi, the Monograph is highly creditable to Rai Ram Narain Dass, Bahadoor. It displays skill as an operative surgeon, exhibits the devotion of the author to his profession, and is an undoubted proof of industry and worth. Excellent as the work is, we are afraid that, in a financial point of view, the author will not find it successful, for monographs of this sort never pay in India the cost of printing; however, the Baboo may console himself with the consciousness of having done well, and of having gained the approbation of his professional brethren, both European and Native." The Professors of the Medical College speak very favourably of the book. Thus Dr. McConnel says: "It is, undoubtedly, a valuable contribution to the statistics of stone in this country, and I congratulate you on the signal success that has attended your operative practice." Dr. Lawrie writes: "The general excellence of your work on Lateral Lithotomy is typified by the direction you give for the deep incision, on which the issue of the operation mainly depends, and which are the best I have read in any language." Dr. Charles says: "The illustrations form a new feature in a book published by an Indian author, and looking at them must prove of much interest to all, and to no one more than to yourself, to whom they must serve as a catalogue for your museum, and to recall vividly the particulars of many of your cases. The reflection that you have been the direct means of saving so much life and of alleviating so much suffering must be a source of much pleasure to you, and I trust that you may have many years of life to prosecute the study in which you evince so much interest." Dr. Palmer says: "It forms a creditable record of very valuable experience, and will, I feel sure, be very much prized as such by all who are working in the same field." Dr. Smith writes: "It is very evident that the author has had a wonderfully wide field of experience in the particular operation treated of; and the results of that experience appear to have been of an exceptionally successful character." Dr. Beatson says: "I have glanced through the work on "Lateral Lithotomy Operations," recently brought out by Assistant Surgeon Rai Ram Narain Dass, Bahadoor, and consider the results obtained by him to prove how dexterously he operated on, and how judiciously he afterwards treated his patients—results all the more creditable to him, since his success, even early in his career, and before he had the splendid assistance of anæsthetics, was almost as marked as in the later operations done by him." Dr. King of Madras in reviewing the work in the local *Times* says: "A comparative table shews the extraordinary success which has rewarded Mr. Ramnarain Das's skill in operations. Thus the mortality in 354 operations performed in the Bristol Infirmary was 1 in 4½; in 213 operations in Mr. Cheselden's practice, 1 in 10 13-20th and in his 248 cases 1 in 14 10-17th." We may add that according to the statement of Dr. Gross, the eminent Surgeon of Philadelphia, in 115 operations performed by himself the mortality was 1 in 11½.

Such is the character of the book, which heads this notice. It has been very kindly noticed by H. R. H.

the Prince of Wales, the Right Hon'ble the Secretary of State, and other high authorities, notably the Royal College of Surgeons. We have not space for a lengthened review of the work, but we can say from the cursory glance we have taken of it that it is fully worthy of the high reputation, which our author possesses as a surgeon.

Babu Ramnarain Das Rai Bahadur has served the Government with approbation and distinction for about forty years. During these years he has come into contact with official superiors of all sorts of temperament, but all of them have spoken equally well of him. He has worked hard and long, and may we ask whether his is not a case in which the Government may fitly reward him for long and meritorious services with a full pension? It will give us great pleasure if the Government makes this substantial recognition of his services.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS.

MOFUSSIL SUBSCRIPTIONS	Rs.	As.	P.
Moulvi Mahomed Shayak, Gorrukpore	13	0	0
Rungaswamy Naidoo Esq., Chittaldroog	15	0	0
Hon'ble Raja Promothonath Roy Bahadoor, Digapatty	13	4	0
Khamargachee Des-Hitoisiny Sobha	4	0	0
J. S. Zarvis Esq., Bowreah	13	4	0
R. G. Glazier Esq., C.S., Dinagepore	13	4	0
Head Master, Bhastara School	6	4	0
Secretary Saugur Hit Shobha	13	4	0
Moulvi Roheem Khan, Khan Bahadoor, Lahore	13	4	0
Chairman Road Cess Committee, Dacca	3	0	0
Rajshaye Association	13	4	0
P. & W. C. Soor & Co., Meerut	13	4	0
S. C. Sannyal Esq. Camp Kakina	6	10	0
Baboo Gobind Ram, Allahabad	13	4	9
,, Shib Chunder Bose, Bankipore	6	4	0
,, Chundergoti Mustofee, Sookrah	8	4	0
,, Khetter Nath Dey, Saidpore	3	4	0
,, Debendralal Shome, Midnapore	6	10	0
,, Surendranath Pal Chowdhry, Ranaghat	13	4	0
,, Bhogobutty Churn Ghose, Hinzada	13	4	0
,, Anund Chunder Das, Futtehgurh	3	5	0
,, Nilmadhub Samonto, Dinagepore	13	4	0
,, Mohendranath Banerjee, Shilleng	6	10	0
,, Shamapodo Chowdhry, Dinagepore	13	4	0
,, Kylas Chunder Chowdhry, Cutwa	10	0	0
,, Troylucknath Mookerjee, Darjeeling	5	0	0
,, Kalicoomar Das, Boulesh	20	0	0
,, Gourbullub Sahoy, Allygurh	10	0	0
,, Mohendranath Banerjee, Maldah	10	0	0
,, Hari Krishna Mazoomdar, Islampore	10	0	0
,, Okhoy Coomar Banerjee, Shilleng	10	0	0
,, Herombo Narayan Roy Mohasoy, Lokhaunath	13	4	0
,, Peary Lal Mookerjee, Ghatal	15	0	0
,, Nemy Churn Mozoomdar, Benares	13	4	0
,, Petambor Ghose, Balasore	13	4	0
,, Gurupersad Sen, Mongaldoy	6	0	0
BRATUM.			
,, Kristodhone Banerjea, Cooch Behar, for Rs. 18, read	13	4	0

Government Notifications

Calcutta Gazette,—*February*, 18, 1878.

GENERAL.—Mr. E. H. Ruddock is appointed to be an Assistant Magistrate and Collector in Rajshahye.

Mr. Ruddock will act as a Joint-Magistrate and Deputy Collector of the First Grade.

Captain A. E. Gordon to act until further orders, as Deputy Commissioner of the Chittagong Hill Tracts.

Mr. J. D. Gael, Assistant Magistrate and Collector Rampore Haut division, Moorshedabad, obtained special leave for six months.

Baboo Hurry Mohun Chandra, Deputy Magistrate and Deputy Collector Dinagpore, is vested with the powers of a Collector.

The orders of the 10th ultimo, appointing Baboo Tarini Prosad Roy, Deputy Magistrate and Deputy Collector Mohesrakha, Howrah, on leave, to have charge of the Bhudruck division, are cancelled.

Baboo Sreenath Chuckerbutty to be a temporary Sub-Deputy Collector of the Second Grade, and is posted to Cuttuck.

Mr. D. Norton, Assistant Magistrate and Collector Contai division, Midnapore, obtained subsidiary leave from the 29th January to 16th February 1878.

Baboo Kadernath Dutt, Deputy Magistrate and Deputy Collector, Mohesrakha, Howrah, to have charge of the Bhudruck division of the Balasore district.

Mr. W. Cornell District Judge of Bankoora, to act in the First Grade of District and Sessions Judges, *vice* Mr. L. R. Tottenham.

Baboo Jodoonath Choudry, Deputy Magistrate and Deputy Collector, Jessore, having joined his appointment the unexpired portion of his leave is cancelled.

Mr. N. S. Alexander reported his departure from India on furlough on the 4th instant.

Baboo Rajendranath Roy, Deputy Magistrate and Deputy Collector, is promoted to the Sixth Grade of the Sub-Executive Service, *vice* Nund Keshore Das. Baboo Rajendranath will continue to be employed as District Engineer of the Patna Road cess Committee.

Baboo Bepin Behary Mookerji Deputy Magistrate and Deputy Collector, is promoted to the Sixth Grade of the Sub-Executive service, *vice* Mr. H. R. Reily, Baboo Bepin Behary Mookerji will continue to be employed as manager of the estate of the late Baboo Ramkishore Acharji of Mymensing.

Moulvi Mohamed Abdul Kadir Deputy Magistrate and Deputy Collector, Jungypore Sub-division, Moorshedabad, is promoted to the Sixth Grade of the Sub-Executive service, *vice*, Rajendranath Roy.

Baboo Uma Kant Das Personal Assistant to the Commissioner of Chittagong is promoted to the Sixth Grade of the Sub-Executive service, *vice*, Baboo Bepin Behary Mookerji.

Mr. A. Rattray, Deputy Magistrate and Deputy Collector, Howrah, obtained furlough for one year, together with subsidiary leave for fourteen days.

Mr. T. M. Kirkwood, Joint-Magistrate and Deputy Collector, Jessore, obtained leave for one month.

Baboo Hurokali Mookerji Deputy Collector and Deputy Magistrate, Furreedpore, obtained leave for a fortnight.

Mr. D. W. M. Testro, to act as a Joint-Magistrate and Deputy Collector of the First Grade, Gya.

MEDICAL.—Dr. B. Simpson, Civil Surgeon of Patna and Superintendent, Temple Medical School, obtained leave for one month.

Assistant Surgeon Bollye Chunder Sen, Teacher Temple Medical School, to act as Superintendent of that Institution to have Civil Medical charge of Patna.

Assistant Surgeon Sreenath Mookerji, Charitable Dispensary, Mymensingh, obtained furlough for one year.

Assistant Surgeon Sonaton Boysack, Bagdogra, Rungpore, to have charge of the Charitable Dispensary at Mymensingh.

Assistant Surgeon Banode Behary Das, a supernumerary at the Presidency, to have medical charge of the Sub-division of Bagdogra, Rungpore.

Assistant Surgeon Bata Krishna Datt, obtained leave for one month.

Dr. C. J. Jackson, Civil Surgeon, Mozufferpore obtained subsidiary leave for fifteen days.

Dr. R. G. Mathew, Civil Surgeon, Midnapore, to act as Civil Surgeon of Mozuffurpore.

Dr. W. A. Gilligan in medical charge of the establishment of the Northern Bengal Railway, to act as Civil Surgeon of Midnapore.

JUDICIAL.—Leave of absence to Moonsiffs—Baboo Ananta ram Ghose, Moonsif of Attia, Mymensingh, obtained two months privilege leave.

Baboo Behary Lal Mullick, Moonsif of Moradnuggar, Tipperah, obtained leave of absence for two months without pay.

Advertisements.

MAHOMEDAN LITERARY SOCIETY.

The 14th Annual Conversazione will be held at the Town Hall on Tuesday the 26th instant at 9 P. M.,

ABDOOL LUTIEF.

VALUABLE BOOKS OFFERED CHEAP FOR CASH.

Rigved Sanhita, translated into English by Wilson and Cowell from 1st to 5th Ashtakas, 4 Volumes Rs. 30.

Chronicle of the Pathan Kings of Delhi (Thomas) Rs. 12.

Beames' Indian Philology Rs. 2-8.

Burnell,—Samavidhana-Brahmana, Vol I. London 1873, Rs. 7.

HISTORY of India (Sir H. M. Elliot Vol 1-7 wanting Vols 4, 6 Rs. 50.

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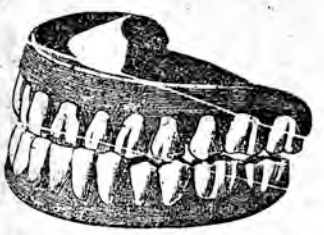

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